., Saudis Agree to Move Coalition Forces

H, Saudi Arabia — The United States said day it had reached agreement with Saudi ities to urgently relocate U.S. and allied troops i Arabia to shield them from further attacks.

Defense Secretary William Perry and his counterpart Prince Sultan "agreed that n forces will move to new locations on Saudi s," the U.S. Embassy said in a statement.

is will greatly improve security while ensuring nissions will continue to be carried out ely," it said.

(Contd on Pg. 15)



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NATO Starts Restructuring of Force

SARAJEVO — NATO began pulling out the first of its heavy weaponry from Bosnia Tuesday as part of a major shake-up in the alliance's peacekeeping force, NATO officials said.

"The restructuring of the force begins in earnest today (Wednesday) with the redeployment of an American multiple launch rocket system unit," Major Brett Boudreau, spokesman for the NATO-led Implementation Force (IFOR) said. *(AFP)*

VAITI CHARGE D'AFFAIRES:

Iraq Must Abide y UN Resolutions



AL-DAFIRI

Tehran Times Service

AN — On the eve of the anniversary of Iraqi attack wait, the Kuwaiti Charge ires in Tehran Ali Ahmad iri praised the wise stance y Iran toward the issue and for full implementation of Resolutions by Iraq.

king the above remark in an ive interview with the *Te- Times* on Wednesday, he d, "Iraq must fully comply he UN Resolutions and no is accepted from Iraq in gard."

said that, unfortunately, the esolutions issued regarding aqi invasion of Kuwait have een implemented yet and l issues such as the fate of s, looted property, and dam- flicted on Kuwait by the in- n have not been resolved to

ferring to some 605 Kuwaiti ners of war still detained in jails, the charge d'Affaires , "We have obtained solid nce proving that there are a in number of POWs still held aq. Besides, there are docu- s and official arrest orders in- ing that many well-known aiti individuals were taken to and imprisoned there follow- xpulsion of Iraqi troops from ait.

e further lauded the wise and stic stand taken by Iran on Iraqi invasion and occupation of Kuwait and said, "From the very outset of the Iraqi aggression, Iran condemned Iraq for its invasion of Kuwait."

The Kuwaiti charge d'Affaires continued by saying, "The realistic approach adopted by Iran had an extremely positive impact on the relations between Iran and Kuwait and promoted the friendly ties between the two countries."

It is worth noting that on August 2, 1990, the Iraq launched a sudden attack on Kuwait and occupied that country. The Iraqi occupation of Kuwait lasted for seven months. Eventually, the U.S and some other Western countries, in a concerted move, forced Iraq to pull its troops out of Kuwait.

(Contd on Pg. 15)

UN Envoy Lashes Out at Taleban After Shell Attack

KABUL — The UN's new special envoy to Afghanistan on Wednesday accused the Taleban militia of "spitting in his face" following the latest shell attack on the besieged Afghan capital.

The stinging criticism of the militiamen came after six shells struck Kabul during special ambassador Dr Norbert Holl's first visit here since taking up his post last month.

"Rocketing started here which I did not like at all because it demonstrates a sort of contempt for my mission," Holl told journalists at the end of his two-day trip to the capital.

"I will take it up with the Taleban as this is no way to treat a peace emissary, by shooting at him. If you receive a guest in your house you don't start spitting in his face."

(Contd on Pg. 15)

Arab Countries Draw Up raft Plan to Fight Terrorism

RO — Arab countries fin- l work Tuesday on a strategy ombat terrorism by which would commit to preventing territory from becoming a for terrorists.

ecurity experts from 15 coun- closed a two-day session to up a draft strategy to be ap- ed by the 22 interior minis- of the Arab League during next council meeting in ary.

A spokesman for the Sudanese bassy in Cairo, Abdel Azim ad, said Egyptian authorities refused to provide entry visas the Sudanese delegation, the b daily *Al-Hayat* reported on Tuesday.

But Egyptian Deputy Interior Minister Mustafa Abdel Qadir said Egypt "did not prevent Sudan from attending."

The Arab strategy will be based "on the extradition of wanted terrorists and the adoption of strong measures against terrorists" in Arab nations, said Ahmad ibn Mohammad al-Salem of Saudi Arabia.

Salem refused to specify if any steps would be taken against Arab countries supporting terrorism. "We cannot enter into such details before the strategy is adopted" by the ministers, he said.

(Contd on Pg. 15)

9th Int'l Islamic Unity Conference Opens Today



TASKHIRI

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN — President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani will open the Ninth International Islamic Unity Conference, to be held from August 1-3, today.

Religious, political figures and scholars from 35 countries will participate in the conference.

The conference is regularly held in Tehran every year on the auspicious occasion of the birth anniversary of Prophet Mohammad (S).

The subject of this year's conference is unity on the Sunna of Prophet (S), his infallible household and his companions.

Some eighty articles by scholars from different parts of the world have been received by secretariat of the conference.

During the Unity Week regional seminars on Islamic Unity will be held in provinces of Sistan-Baluchestan and Kurdestan as well as in Gorgan (Mazandaran).

Head of Islamic Culture and Communications Organization Ayatollah Mohammad Ali Taskhiri said earlier this week, "By unity, we do not mean that all Muslims should think identical, but rather our aim is to bring our

(Contd on Pg. 15)

Muslim Unity Not Implying Uninifying Schools of Thought

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN — Islamic unity and convergence of different schools of thought does not mean that the followers of different schools of thought should give up their beliefs and embrace the teachings of another school of thought, rather unity refers to shunning trifle differences and the formation of a united bloc against the common enemy, Seyed Ja'afar Shahidi said to the *Tehran Times*.

The renowned writer and professor of Tehran University, Shahidi talking to the Tehran times on the occasion of the Unity Week, added contrary to what the naives or mischievous persons spread, we never want to force the followers of other Islamic schools of thought to convert to another school of thought.



SHAHIDI

Embracing any religion should be on the basis of reason and logic. People embrace religions on the basis of the reasoning that convinces them not due to political or social pressures, he said.

Shahidi, 78, stressed that the true unity among Muslims entails that the Muslims give priority to the Islam and common interests of all Muslims instead of pursuing their own parochial, sectarian interests.

We are living in a sensitive situation. The enemies of religion are deadly determined to eliminate religion from the face of the globe. This is the duty of Muslims to shun differences in order to safeguard Islam. Indeed the commonalties among Muslims are far more than their differences, he added.

(Contd on Pg. 15)

"Provide Comfort" Extension Marks Erbakan's First U-Turn

ANKARA — Turkish Prime Minister Necmettin Erbakan, by agreeing to extend the Turkey-based multinational operation to protect Iraqi Kurds, has committed a key policy about-face after just one month in office.

While Erbakan's pro-Islamic Welfare Party was in the Turkish opposition, it staunchly opposed the U.S.-Anglo-French air surveillance of northern Iraq to protect Kurds against Baghdad's aggression.

But the Turkish Parliament on Tuesday gave the five-year-old Operation Provide Comfort, based in southwestern Incirlik, near Adana, a five-month extension until the end of the year.

The United States on Tuesday welcomed the decision by the Turkish Parliament to extend an operation to protect Kurds in northern Iraq, saying it was a test of U.S.-Turkish relations.

"That's a great victory for Turkey and the United States and the Erbakan government," State Department spokesman Nicholas Burns said following the parliamentary vote in Ankara.

Prime Minister Necmettin Erbakan and his pro-Islamic Welfare Party supported the proposed one-year renewal of Operation Provide Comfort in the vote that marked a shift from their previous staunch opposition.

Political sources in Ankara said that while Erbakan was won over by intensive discussions with visiting U.S. teams, he had difficulties in persuading his pro-Islamic Welfare Party to support a fresh mandate.

Burns described discussions about Operation Provide Comfort as "really the first test of the new U.S.-Turkish relationship" following the appointment of the Islamist prime minister.

Clinton Criticizes New Israeli Settlement Plans



WASHINGTON — President Bill Clinton on Tuesday criticized reported plans to relaunch Israeli settlements in the West Bank, warning they could derail the fragile Mideast peace process.

Clinton said he had heard reports that new Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu was planning to expand existing settlements and build roads around areas under Palestinian self-rule.

"We are concerned about anything that could affect the peace process adversely," Clinton said in joint press conference with

(Contd on Pg. 15)

Five Russians Killed in Chechnya

MOSCOW — Five Russian soldiers were killed by an explosion in war-torn Chechnya as Russian warplanes continued to bomb suspected Chechen areas in the north Caucasus republic, officials said Wednesday.

The five soldiers died and a sixth was injured when an explosive device went off on their route back to base Tuesday, Interfax quoted the military command as saying.

There were no further details, but Russian soldiers regularly hit landmines, or are ambushed with rocket-propelled grenades, as they move about in armored personnel carriers and tanks.

Another 11 soldiers were in-

(Contd on Pg. 15)

Congratulations and Holiday Notice

[illegible] is the auspicious birth anniversary of the Holy Prophet of Islam Hazrat Mohammad (S) and that of Imam Ja'far Sadeq (S), the sixth infallible Imam of the Household of the Holy Prophet (S). We congratulate the world Muslims over this auspicious occasion.

The 9th International Islamic Unity Conference opens [illegible] on the occasion of the Unity Week. An 8-page special issue on Unity Week is inside. For article on the Holy Prophet's (S) birthday see page [illegible]. The next issue will appear on August [illegible].

TEHRAN TIMES
TEHRAN TIMES NEWS SERVICE
Editor-in-Chief, Tel: 8809500
Editorial Office, Tel: 8810293-5
Electronic Access Tel: 8809437
8809470
Telex: 213662 TTIM IR
224569 TTIP IR
Fax No. 8808214
Address: No. 32, Koucheh Bimeh
Nejatollahi Ave. [former Villa]
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In the Name of Allah

Say: Surely my prayer and my sacrifice and my life and my death are (all) for Allah, the Lord of the worlds;

No associate has He; and this am I commanded, and I am the first of those who sumbit.

(HOLY QORAN)
(6:162 & 163)



The Unity Week

إِنَّ الَّذِينَ فَرَّقُوا دِينَهُمْ وَكَانُوا شِيَعًا لَّسْتَ مِنْهُمْ فِي شَيْءٍ

Surely they who divided their religion into parts and became sects, you have no concern with them; ... (6:159)

Allah revealed to Prophet Mohammad (S) that those holding sectarian attitudes had nothing to do with him and he also had nothing to do with the adherents of sectarianism and discrimination in religion, for the Prophet was a standard-bearer for peace and unity.

On an initiative taken by the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Rabi-ul Awal 12-17 (July 29-Aug. 3) period has been termed the Unity Week to highlight the necessity for Islamic unity.

The Unity Week is honored by the followers of all Islamic schools of thought, since it includes the auspicious birth anniversary of Prophet Mohammad (S). A majority of the Sunni historians believe that the birthday of Prophet Mohammad (S) is Rabi-ul Awal 12. However, the Shia scholars mostly believe that it falls on Rabi-ul Awal 17.

The Unity Week has drawn the respect of all Islamic schools of thought as they have come to realize that the consolidation of fraternal ties and resorting their past glory is only possible by enhancing unity in the Muslim world.

The holy Prophet (S) was born in a society where fratricide and feud was prevalent and the backward society was smeared with blood. He launched his mission aiming to create fraternal feelings and peace and lead the society to great moral ideals (2:208, 3:64).

The holy prophet believed--and was ordained by the Almighty--that he should not prosecute or disturb any individual for his personal beliefs (2:256). At the same time, the Almighty had ordained him to display the signs indicating his divine mission and put forward the reasons proving the veracity of his message so that the people would be able to select the right path themselves (16:125).

Although the prophet was well aware that he was introducing the path to the salvation of mankind, he never sought to impose his views on others. Nevertheless, he defended himself and his followers when a war was waged by the infidels and made every effort to foil the plots hatched to enshroud his divine message. Also, he did not spare those who acknowledged that he was a divine messenger but did not follow the right path due to temporal gains or for fear of losing their socio-political positions.

Undoubtedly, Islam is the religion of peace, friendship and brotherhood and the true followers of Islam deserve its blessings more than others. Islam does not deprive anybody of its blessings; yet he may deprive himself of God's blessings through blasphemy and spite.

Therefore, the Muslims should be the prime beneficiaries of the divine bounty and grace by strengthening the ties of brotherhood among themselves. Thanks God, the tendency in this direction has turned into a deep inclination for convergence among Muslims. Thus, Muslims are marching ahead to form a strong united Islamic front.

The Islamic front, comprised of over one billion Muslims, has at its disposal the world's most strategic spots and richest resources. Hence, it can easily resolve the issues facing the Muslim world.

It is hoped that the Unity Week can expedite the formation of this united front and remove the intellectual and material barriers to its formation. However, it is necessary to call on all Muslims to join this process so as to confront the globe devourers, who are out to subvert Islam.

Indeed, the Muslims, as the Almighty has recommended, should be brethren in faith (49:10, 3:103). Also, they should bear in mind that their commonalities are more than those of the followers of other religions. Consequently, they can hold dialogues among themselves aimed at bringing about peaceful co-existence and religious tolerance more easily.

Italian Deputy FM Denounces Baseless Accusations Against Iran

ROME – Italian Deputy Foreign Minister Piero Fassino here Tuesday denounced the U.S. stance against Iran, terming it as 'hostile and baseless'.

Referring to accusations made by the U.S. against Tehran, he noted that if a country was accused of organizing terrorist acts beyond its borders, such allegations should be supported with reliable documents.

He added that only after the charges had been proved would it be logical to impose sanctions on the offending state.

If any country, without any proof, was accused of supporting terrorism, there was the danger of the prevalence of an "accusatory" approach in international policy making, Fassino stressed.

He further underlined that charging Iran, Libya or any other state of being a supporter of terrorism would not help in effectively countering terrorism.

On relations between the U.S. and Europe, Fassino stated that European countries sympathize with Americans who were attacked in their own land. However, this did not mean that Europe followed Washington's policies to economically isolate other countries.

(IRNA)

Habibi: Science, Knowledge Important for All Nations



BISHKEK – Iran's First Vice-President, Hassan Habibi, said science and knowledge should serve the advancement and elevation of all nations and cultures without discrimination.

He made the statement on Tuesday in an address to the professors and students of the Bishkek Faculty of Humanities in Kyrgyzstan, underlining the necessity for cooperation of scientists and students of regional countries for revival of scientific life and advancement of human knowledge.

Iran's first vice-president underlined the necessity for running courses on training Persian language and literature at doctrate level in Bishkek Univeristy.

President of the Bishkek University of Humanities said spread of Persian language and literature can help the people of the region regain their original identity.

The Bishkek University of Humanities awarded Hassan Habibi an honorary doctorate which was granted by the Kyrgyz minister of higher education.

(IRNA)

Bangladesh Premier Thanks President Rafsanjani

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN – Bangladeshi Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, in a reply message, thanked President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani for his felicitations on the occasion of her election as prime minister of Bangladesh, a press release faxed here yesterday from the Bangladesh Embassy said.

Prime Minister Hasina, in her message, said she looked forward to working with the Iranian president towards "further consolidating, widening and strengthening the fraternal relations and mutually beneficial cooperation between the two Islamic countries in the years ahead."

Velayati Confers With Bosnian Premier

Tehran Times Service



TEHRAN — Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati conferred in Geneva on Wednesday with the Bosnian Prime Minister Hasan Muratovic.

The Iranian minister attended the gathering of the Contact Group of the Organization of Islamic Conference (OIC) in Geneva and then left for Belarussia on a two-day official visit.

The latest developments in Bosnia-Herzegovina and the measures taken by the two countries within the framework of the OIC and also the need for coordination between Iran and Bosnia-Herzegovina aimed at making proper decisions were discussed by Velayati and Muratovic.

The two sides further discussed the outcomes of the recent visit of Iran's First Vice-President Hassan Habibi to Bosnia-Herzegovina and the signing of seven agreements on mutual cooperation by the two countries and expressed satisfaction over the implementation of agreements on granting credit by the Islamic Republic of Iran to Bosnia-Herzegovina.

The Bosnian prime minister voiced his gratitude to Iranian government and people for the aid and support provided by them to Bosnia-Herzegovina.

At the special session of the OIC's Contact Group, Muratovic thanked the Islamic countries for their support but stressed that the peace accord has not been fully implemented yet.

He said that circumstances are not ready for the return of the Bosnian refugees and that the Serb war criminals are not arrested and prosecuted yet. Muratovic regarded the above issues as barriers to the implementation of peace accord and called on the international bodies to support his country in its demands.

Pakistani Ambassador Lauds Irna's Role in Covering Regional News

TEHRAN – Pakistani Ambassador to Iran Khalid Mahmood in a meeting here Wednesday with Managing Director of the Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA), Fereydoun Verdinejad, termed the agency's role in promotion of Tehran-Islamabad ties as crucial.

Calling for expansion of media cooperation between the two countries, Khalid expressed his satisfaction with the very close mutual relations.

He further underlined that IRNA has been very successful in giving coverage to regional news and developments particularly on issues related to Pakistan.

Meanwhile, Verdinejad referred to the two countries' media coopertion as close and called for further strengthening of the ties.

Expressing satisfaction over efforts made by the two neighboring states to establish peace and security in Afghanistan, he hoped that the joint efforts would lead to creation of unity among the belligerent sides and would bring an end to bloodshed in that country.

As to cooperation between Iranian and Pakistani news agencies, Verdinejad stated that the two agencies have been successful at regional news organizations including, Organization of Asia-Pacific News Agencies (OANA) and the Non-Aligned News Agencies Pool (NANAP).

(IRNA)

BESHARATI:

Iran Hosting One-Tenth of World Refugees



Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN — More than 2 million refugees are living in Iran, Interior Minister Ali Mohammad Besharati told the 13th gathering of the authorities in charge of the ministry's provincial offices for foreign refugees on Wednesday.

Some 1,400,000 Afghan refugees, 580,000 Iraqis and 40,000 refugees of other nationalities are living comfortably in Iran, he said, adding that Iran respects refugees and provides them with necessary facilities.

Referring to a report submitted by the UN human rights envoy in Iran, Besharati said that the report indicates that the Islamic Republic of Iran is the best and safest place for refugees.

He added that the refugees can live in Iran as long as they wish, and that upon their returning home, Iran will provide them with their necessities.

According to the minister, some 250,000 Afghan refugees are to return home. Each returning refugee will receive 25 dollars and some 50 kilograms of wheat, he added.

Calling on the international bodies to increase their contributions to the refugees in Iran, Besharati noted that while Iran is hosting one-tenth of the world refugees, it is receiving only one percent of the funds allocated in this regard.

He said that due to the prevalent conditions in Afghanistan, it is impossible for the Afghan refugees to return home for the time being.

Besharati Emphasizes Safety and Security of Iranians in Azerbaijan

TEHRAN – Islamic Republic of Iran and the Azerbaijan Republic signed two memoranda of understanding in cooperation between the disciplinary forces of the two countries and combat against drug smuggling.

The documents relating to the two memoranda were signed at the end of the talks of Iran's Interior Minister, Ali Mohammad Besharati, and the Azerbaijan Republic's Interior Minister, Ramil Esobov, in Tehran.

Iran's interior minister hinted at the two countries' high capacity for expansion of economic and trade cooperation and said to guarantee the seucirty of the merchants trafficking between the two countries help boost economic relations.

Besharati called on the Azeri officials to provide the necessary facilities to provide the ground for security of Iranian citizens travelling to that country.

He stressed Iran's policy of developing friendly and good relations with its neighbors and expressed hope that with the measures taken by the officials of the Azerbaijan Republic some existing problems would be removed, thus observing the mounting growth of cooperation between the two countries.

The Azeri minister thanked for Iran's good will and said using the valuable expertise of the Islamic Republic of Iran is very useful for newly independent countries such as the Azerbaijan Republic.

Azerbaijan Republic's interior minister hinted at the security of Iranian merchants and said "I personally pursue the matter and ensure..."

(Contd on Pg. 15)

Russia, Iran Ink M... Surface Transport

North Korea Seeks ... for Free ...

Japan Dithers at Do...

Russia, Iran Ink MOU on Surface Transportation

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN - Iran's Construction Jihad Minister Gholamreza Forouzesh concluded a letter of understanding with Russian Minister of Surface Transport Nikolai Zakh.

According to the agreement Iranian vessels at the Caspian Sea will be allowed to berth at Makhach Qaleh Port, capital of Daghestan Republic, IRNA reported.

Iran has also undertaken to offer a draft constitution of a joint company for operation in buiding Olya Port at the estuary of the Volga River, as well as indicate the time and amount of Iranian investment on the project.

The Iranian government has also indicated its interest to benefit from the Russian know-how in building multi-purpose water canals. Iran's Construction Jihad Minister said that his ministry had already built as many as 30 ports in Iran and supervised the building of 80,000 kilometers of rural roads. He said the building of Olya Port by Iran's Construction Jihad Ministry would greatly improve Iran-Russia relations.

Meanwhile, Russian Minister Nikolai Zakh, said that in light of a visit last week, between Construction Jihad Minister of Iran and Russian Deputy Prime Minister Alexei Bolshakov, the situation for broadening Iran-Russia relations was perfect.

The Russian official said he had called on Iranian entrepreneurs to contribute to a project for building Makhach Port in conjunction with European partners.

Meanwhile, Deputy Minister of Roads and Transportation Mohammad Madad said that Iran had 35 per cent of a joint company with the Russian Federation and that it would make an investment for developing port facilities at Olya at the estuary of the Volga River to the Caspian Sea.

He said access to Makhach Qaleh Port by the Iranian vessels at the Caspian Sea would greatly help access of Iranian trucks to the continent through the Russian soil.

NIDC's Operations, Overseas Ventures Outlined

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN - National Iranian Drilling Company (NIDC) has saved $1.5 billion for the country so far by achieving self-sufficiency in manufacture, repair and maintenance of its equipment and carrying out drilling operations since 1989.

Managing director of the company Mohammad Javad Asemipour said here Wednesday that since the start of the First Five-Year Plan, the NIDC has dug 467 wells and repaired 200 others, IRNA reported.

The Iranian official said that Iran was 96 percent self-sufficient in manufacture, repair, and maintenance of on-shore drilling equipment.

The NIDC is ready to export its technical and engineering services, he said.

Asemipour said the company launched 86 sampling operations in the year 1372 (March 21, 1993-March 20, 1994), 116 in 1373 (March 21, 1994-March 20, 1995) and 200 in 1374 (March 21, 1995-March 19, 1996). It expected to do 220 sampling operations by the year end on March 20, 1997, he added

He said that by carrying out such oprations, the company saved $25 million for the country.

Elsewhere in his remarks, Asemipour said that his company has signed Rls.80 billion worth of contracts with Iranian contractors since the triumph of the Islamic Revolution in 1979 in order to foil impacts of U.S.-imposed economic sanctions and encourage domestic manufacturers to make components needed by the oil industry.

The NIDC has set up a joint company with Libya and the machinery needed by the joint company has been manufactured by the Iranian ground forces and is ready to be exported to Libya.

Moreover, he said, the Iranian company has signed a contract with Senegal for exploratory and digging operations.

40,000 Square Meters of Tarpaulin Exported

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN - Some 40,000 square meters of tarpaulin valued at $180,000 was exported to the Central Asian countries during the first quarter of this calendar year (started March 21), the managing director of a tarpaulin manufacturing factory said in Karaj on Wednesday, IRNA reported.

Hosseini Nejad, head of Iran Tarpaulin Manufacturing Plant said that his factory exported $400,000 worth of tarpaulin last year and it expects to export $one million worth of the material to the Central Asian countries and Russia this year.

According to Hosseini Nejad, the tarpaulin exported so far included industrial gloves, tarpaulin materials and industrial filters.

The manager said that in order to increase export of the material, permanent representative offices have been opened in those countries which can play a major role in introduction of Iranian made goods.

Iran's Economy Too Strong to Be Hurt

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN - Iran has laid a firm foundation for its economic development to the effect that it can tolerate economic sanctions imposed on it, a senior official said Wednesday, IRNA reported.

Deputy Head of the Majlis Commission on Oil Mohsen Yahyavi said that Iranian economy is now less dependent on oil than it was last year or two years ago.

Yahyavi said that Iran imported over $16 billion worth of goods in 1373, while the figure dropped to $eight billion last year.

France Rebuffed by Brussels on Currency Penalties

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN - French demands for the EU's budget mechanism to be used to penaliz countries that allow their currencies to depreciate have been rejected by the European Commission, an AFP dispatch reported from Brussels.

A report adopted by the commission on Tuesday concluded that such a step would be legally impossible before 1999 — when the current EU budget accord expires — and economically ill-advised.

France had suggested that payments from EU's structural funds, designed to help poorer countries catch up with the rest of the union, be calculated in national currencies rather than ECUs.

This would ensure that countries whose currencies depreciated received smaller - rather than larger, as at present - amounts as a result of conversion into the national currency.

The French demand for a commission study on the issue reflects deep concern that countries which are not part of the first wave of monetary union in 1999 will let their currencies devalue against the Euro to gain a trading advantage.

France is particularly alarmed at being locked into a strong Euro bloc while its neighbors Italy and Spain, remain on the outside, free to indulge in "competitive devaluations." Belgium has also expressed concern about the issue.

A separate commission report last year, however, concluded that countries which devalue do not gain any lasting competitive advantage. The short-term boost of lower export prices is quickly eaten away by the higher inflation that devaluation produces.

North Korea Seeks Foreign Investors for Free-Trade Zone

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN - A close aide to North Korean Leader Kim Jong Il said Wednesday that businesses in Hong Kong had shown great interest in investing in the country's first free-trade zone, an AFP dispatch reported.

Kim Jong U, Vice Chairman of the External Economy Commission, was in Hong Kong to tout North Korea's Rajin-Sonbong Free Trade Zone, under construction near Russia and China.

"What we have to say is that interest shown by investors from Hong Kong is more than we have originally expected," Kim told reporters through an interpreter.

The official's visit here followed a similar seminar in Tokyo earlier this month when he said North Korea needed four billion dollars to improve infrastructure in the zone, most of which it wanted to get from abroad.

North Korea, still reeling from devastating floods in 1995, said in a dispatch monitored this week that torrential rains last week had caused heavy loss of life and wiped out its Western granaries.

Kim said several agreements and letters of intent, mainly on highway and hotel projects, had been signed during the Hong Kong seminar, despite the fact that only half of those invited, mostly from South Korea, attended.

He declined to disclose the value of the deals, citing "commercial confidentiality."

Kim said that aside from South Korea, investors in Europe and the United States had shown more interest in the free trade zone than those from other countries in Asia.

North Korean officials accompanying Kim on the trip said 10 South Korean companies had offered to invest in projects in which the North would process goods on a commission basis for the South.

The free trade zone is adjacent to the Tumen River, where the boundaries of China and Russia meet at the northern tip of North Korea, and has a population of 140,000, with ports and industrial parks.

"Despite keen competition from China and Russia, we are trying to make our investment incentives more competitive with the lowest investment cost," said Kim.

He said North Korea offered huge opportunities for foreign manufacturers, particularly in light industrial projects, because of its strategic location in Northeast Asia.

"We have shifted our dependency in heavy industries to areas where return on investment can be regained quickly," said Kim.

"Our government's priority now is only light industries, foreign trade, and agriculture..... in line with the global economic trend."

Japan Dithers at Door of Recovery

Tehran Times Servic

TEHRAN - Japan has reached the threshold of sustainable economic recovery, but is finding the next step difficult because it will require a complete overhaul of how it does business, the country's chief economic planner said Wednesday, as quoted by AFP.

"Although we are at a stage with only one step to go towards a fully fledged economic recovery, it is indeed extremely difficult to take our economy on that path," said Shusei Tanaka, Director-General of the Economic Planning Agency.

"In order to link the current process of economic recovery to a fully fledged economic recovery there is a need to drastically implement structural reforms," Tanaka told the Foreign Correspondents' Club of Japan.

It is a cause Tanaka has championed since his appointment in January by Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto, who shares the director general's zeal for sweeping deregulation.

Hashimoto held July 9 the first of a series of cabinet meetings on deregulation, which have been closed to ministry bureaucrats, in an attempt to establish political consensus on the need to overhaul the administration that controls vast areas of the economy.

Tanaka said that after years of virtually zero growth following the collapse of the so-called speculative "bubble economy," the shock of the yen's surge to record highs, and exposure of massive bad debt in the financial system, Japan was strong enough to undergo reform.

The EPA said in five successive monthly reports that "moderate economic recovery" was underway in Japan. That assessment was upgraded last month, when it said that recovery had made "half a step progress."

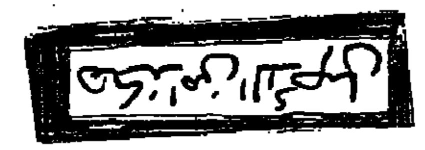
"We are now able to open the door towards fully fledged economic recovery," Tanaka said, but added: "Although we have opened the door ... we haven't stepped inside."

Tanaka said if structural reform is successful, then Japan could expect annual growth in gross domestic product of three percent or more by 2000

If it fails, then the best the economy could hope for was 1.75 percent, though Tanaka believed even that would be hard to achieve.

Tanaka said the economy has strengthened enough "to survive major surgery," which was effectively the only option if it is to return to healthy growth

"One possible option is to drastically implement economic structural reform and in that process try to stimulate the emergence of new industrial activities and thereby create new employment opportunities and with this in place try to build an economy which will sustain stable economic growth on a mid to long-term basis," he said.



PROPHETHOOD AND PROPHETS



By: Martyr Ayatullah S.M.H. Beheshti

Tehran Times Service

During the course of history, there has been granted prophethood to such individuals who were talented, possessing a high degree of intelligence. What has this prophethood been? Prophethood has meant that these individuals, on account of their special degree of discernment and intelligence received certain teachings from the Creator of this world who had made it binding upon them to convey the same to the rest to humanity. This particular and exceptional degree of intelligence and discernment has been termed as "revelation" in the Holy Qoran. In the same way, this mission and obligation is known as "Prophethood" in Farsi language and "mission" in Arabic.

How and in which way does man come to believe in the presence of such a typical awareness and discernment in prophets? The answer is: through studying the accurately probing into the private life, personal state, and individual and social behaviour of thses individuals, the degree of their thinking and learning prior to "divine revelation" and after it, and their amazing and untiring efforts aimed at fructifying these instructions, and the 'mission which they claimed to have been assigned to them, in a way that a researcher is compelled to accept the presence of a special mental state in these individuals. In other words, there is an exceptional degree of learning, excitement and zeal which human beings are devoid of, present in such individuals.

Of course, they also possessed the power, if neccessary, to create miracles and to accomplish extraordinary tasks beyond the power of ordinary human beings, to establish the rightfulness of their claim.

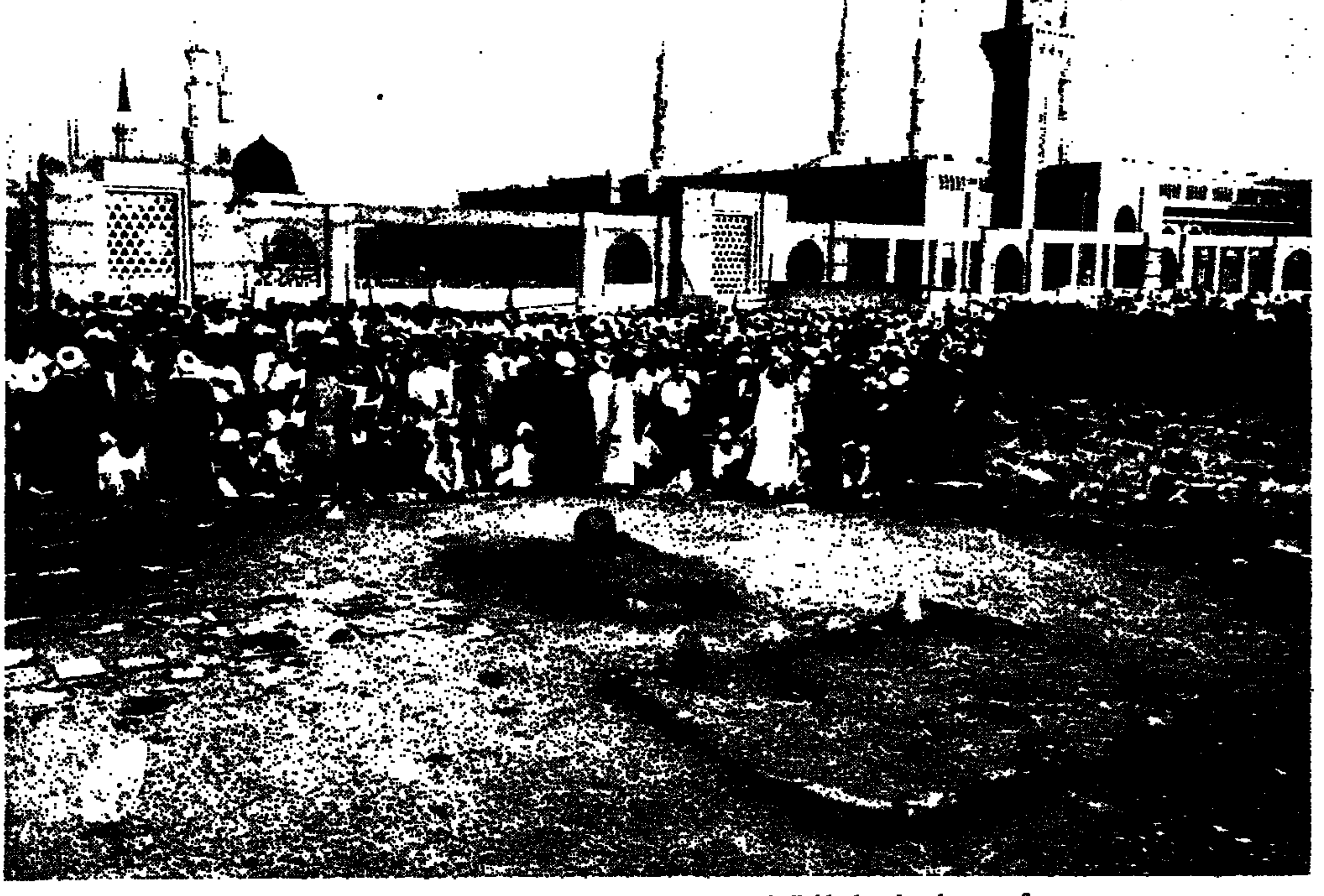
A study of the exceptional knowledge and state of mind constitutes one of the avenues of the human psychological research today. Psychology or observation of "special and exceptional mental states", different types of which exist even today in some individuals in the form of a very strong feeling of anticipation, finds itself confronted with very complicated and deep mental issues. And of course, in the manner which is usual with knowledge, it is trying to discern something more of these complications and to express views on them. The time is now over for a researcher, upon coming across such a special state, to content himself with a series of superficial explanations and argumentations, and in this way, acceptance of a series of special and exceptional states of mind in some human beings continues to be not only something acceptable but also interesting.

"Divine revelation" is a particular state of exceptional moods of mind, and psychology today doesn't have at its disposal even a single individual, endowed with it, for carrying out studies and scientific probe. Due to this reason, a psychologist, similar to any other individual, can come to believe, by way of an accurate review of the biography, efforts and teachings of a prophet, that this individual has enjoyed a specially exceptional state of mind (divine revelation). But it is evident that he would never have access to such an individual in order to study his internal domain closely by applying different methods, and for example "special psychological and psychoanalytical tests".

Prophets have not only possessed this special awareness and discernment, but also enjoyed a strong and invincible willpower, zeal and extraordinary warmth emanating from a very firm faith in their mission and teachings, as well as other spiritual and moral capabilities to carry out their mission in which they were constantly confronted with stiff opponents and tiresome and dangerous problems.

In these individuals, there existed no privilege, element and index that could give them superiority over man. They have been human beings like all other men, but possessing the capability of receiving divine revelation. They have existed in different parts of the world. The life history and movement of a number of them are available. For instance, "the life history, efforts and movement of the Prophet of Islam who was born in 7th Century A.D. in Hejaz (Sandi Arabia), lived there and brought about from there the roots of Islamic religion based upon divine revelation (Holy Qoran) are in full explicitness. The same applies to the recorded details of his life. This is among the most reliable evidence of man's recorded history". Prophets who have been mentioned in the Holy Qoran, have existed in the Orient and especially in the current "Middle East". The Holy Qoran has mentioned the names of 25 prophets. Some of these prophets were ordained in societies which enjoyed an advanced civilization, while some others did so in backward societies. In the Holy Qoran, in this respect, due attention has

(Contd on Pg. 15)



The grave of the 6th Imam of the Infallible Household of the Prophet Mohammad (S), Imam Jafar Sadeq (AS) in Baqi, Medina.

The 6th Imam of the Infallible Household of the Holy Prophet Mohammad (s)

Tehran Times Service

Jafar Sadiq is the Sixth Imam of the Shias. He was born on the 7th day of Rabiul-Awal on the year 83 Hijra. His name is Jafar but he is often known as Sadiq. He is also referred to by the nickname Abu Abdullah and he is again called Sabir (patient), Fazil (learned), Taher (pure), Sadiq (truthful) all name derived from his beautiful character and attributes.

Fathima known as Om Farwa is his mother. She is the daughter of Qasim bin Muhammad bin Abi Bakr. Qasim, her father, was one of the close companions of Imam Zainul Abidin. He was one of the seven jurisprudents of Mecca.

Om farwa (Fathima) was a greatly respected lady, most pious and most generous. Therefore, Imam Sadiq is also called Son of the Great Lady. Jafar Sadiq succeeded his father Imam Muhammad Baqir following his death and became Imam in the year 114 Hijra when he was 31 years old. In those days constant revolts and uprisings by sympathizers of Imam Ali's family and his offspring and by the Abbasid family had shaken the foundations of the Bani Ummayud government and its institution. Eventually the government was toppled in the year 132 AH and paved the way for the ascencion of the Abbasids.

The downfall of the one and the ascendancy of the other to power led to what is known as the period of the interregnum, or interval, and served as an ideal opportunity for laying the groundwork for the teaching and dissemination of Islamic sciences among the people.

Imam Sadiq took the best possible advantage of the prevailing situation to attract several hundreds of students to him who in turn benefited from being taught by the Imam turned them into scholars of high caliber.

A variety of sciences ranging from Islamic law to moral sciences, divinity, jurisprudence and Islamic legal codes were expounded by the Imam to these students who came crowding from far and wide to his school thirsty for knowledge.

It was from this time onward that there emerged true Islam in its real phase.

Imam Sadiq was not only an oracle in religious sciences but he was also a great doctor in the science of health.

He acquired renown in medicine and chemistry during his time. The famous Muslim chemist of those times, Jaber bin Hayyan refers in his writings to the Imam as his teacher and his lord!!

Imam Sadiq gained fame as a teacher of Islamic sciences. Great scholars of later days were his students. As the role of a scholar consists in the promotion of human prosperity and fostering of civilization we can rightly regard Imam Sadiq, apart his high station of Imamhood, as one the greatest personality who ever appeared in the world of knowledge.

In the annals of Islamic history Imam Sadiq was by far the only Imam who served to propagate Islamic ideology and nurture Muslin civilization in its rise to lofty heights. In his later years, on the order of Mansoor Dawaniqi (one of the Caliphs of the Abbasid dynasty) the Imam was transferred from Medina to Kufa.

There, too, he devoted his time to the imparting of Islamic knowledge.

Since it was Imam Sadiq who expanded the scope of Islamic law and minutely explained, interpreted and expounded its legal codes and many other issues besides Shiism came to be named after him as the Jafari religion. Shiism hence came to occupy an unique and original place with an immediacy that derived at that time from the teachings and inspirations of the Imam.

The Shia belief therefor remained safe from corruption and no influences form outside could penetrate, or permeate it, nor were interventions from outside, or interpolations, or additions able to affect its pristine truth.

Imam Sadiq lived during a very critical period of religious ferment and had therefore to graptle with several theological issues and questions, which he did both prudently and courageously.

The Prophet's (S) Birth and Childhood

Tehran Times Service

Mecca was covered by a heavy silence and darkness. No signs of life and activity were observed in it. Only the moon, as usual, slowly arose from behind the darkened surrounding mountains and cast its pale, delicate rays upon the simple luxury-free houses and upon the sandy regions outside the city.

Little by little, midnight gave way to the early morning dawn. A pleasant breeze passed through the burnt land of the Hijaz and made it ready for a short rest. Now the stars, too, added to the beauty of this pure banquet of nature and smiled at the residents of Mecca.

It was now early dawn and the early rising, vigilant, night birds were singing beautifully in that heavenly weather. They seemed to be speaking in a romantic language to their Beloved! The edge of the horizon of Mecca was on the verge of the brightness of dawn but still a mysterious silence prevailed over the city. All were asleep. Only Amina, awake, felt the contractions she had been expecting.

Gradually the contractions became stronger. Suddenly Amina saw several unknown resplendent ladies in her room who smelled extremely sweet. She started wondering who they were and how they had entered her room through the closed door.

Soon her dear baby was born and thus after several months of waiting, Amina had the pleasure of seeing her child at the early dawn of teh 17th of Rabiul-Awal.

All were overjoyed with this child's birth. But now that Muhammad, peace and the mercy of God be upon him and his descendants, had illuminated Amina's dark and silent room of prayer, her young husband, Abdullah, was not present because he had passed away in Madina on his return from Damascus and had been buried there leaving Amina alone.

The Wonderful Baby

The Prophet was born and his blessed birth gave rise to numerous wonderful incidents in the sky and on the earth, especially in the East which was at that time the cradle of civilization.

These happenings were similar to the most speedy mass-media of the world today and informed the people of an imminent, very significant incident. Since this new born child was predestined to destroy the peoples' old superstitious beliefs and customs and to lay new foundations for human progress and prosperity, from the very beginning he sounded the alarm.

On that blessed night, Anushiravan's magnificent palace, which incarnated a false fantasy of power and eternal monarchy, and upon which people looked with fear and awe, trembled. Fourteen of its turrets collapsed and the fire in the fire-temple of Persia, which had been flaming for 1000 years, was suddenly extinguished.

So the humiliated worshippers of that false, destructive object of worship, whose minds had been blocked by the obstacles of prejudice and false imitation and thus

(Contd on Pg. 15)

Olympic Medals Standings

ATLANTA — Medals standings after 168 events at the Atlanta Olympics on Tuesday.

	gold	silver	bronze	total
United States	24	28	13	65
Russia	19	13	9	41
France	13	6	13	32
China	12	14	8	34
Italy	11	6	9	26
Germany	10	12	19	41
Australia	7	9	17	33
Poland	6	5	3	14
Ukraine	5	2	5	12
Romania	4	5	6	15
Hungary	4	3	5	12
Greece	4	3	0	7
Cuba	3	5	7	15
South Korea	3	5	4	12
Japan	3	4	3	10
New Zealand	3	2	1	6
Switzerland	3	1	0	4
Ireland	3	0	1	4
Turkey	3	0	1	4
Canada	2	7	6	15
Netherlands	2	3	8	13
Brazil	2	2	5	9
Belgium	2	2	2	6
Spain	2	1	2	5
South Africa	2	0	1	3
Ethiopia	2	0	0	2
Belarus	1	4	7	12
Great Britain	1	3	5	9
Kazakhstan	1	3	1	5
Czech Republic	1	2	1	4
Finland	1	2	0	3
North Korea	1	1	1	3
Denmark	1	0	1	2
Slovakia	1	0	1	2
Yugoslavia	1	0	1	2
Armenia	1	0	0	1
Costa Rica	1	0	0	1
Ecuador	1	0	0	1
Hong Kong	1	0	0	1
Syria	1	0	0	1
Bulgaria	0	4	4	8
Sweden	0	2	1	3
Jamaica	0	2	0	2
Kenya	0	2	0	2
Austria	0	1	1	2
Norway	0	1	1	2
Argentina	0	1	0	1
Croatia	0	1	0	1
Namibia	0	1	0	1
Slovenia	0	1	0	1
Uzbekistan	0	1	0	1
Georgia	0	0	1	1
Israel	0	0	1	1
Mexico	0	0	1	1
Mongolia	0	0	1	1
Mozambique	0	0	1	1
Nigeria	0	0	1	1
Moldova	0	0	1	1
Trinidad and Tobago	0	0	1	1
Uganda	0	0	1	1
Morocco	0	0	1	1
Total	168	170	183	521

(AFP)

Mighty Russian Lifts the Gold



ATLANTA, GA, United States (July 30): Centennial Olympics men's doubles table tennis gold medalist Liu Guoliang (L) and Kong Linghui of China play in the gold medal match which they won 21-8, 21-13, 21-19, 21-11.

(AFP PHOTO)

ATLANTA — World champion Andrey Chemerkin crushed the world jerk record to win the over-108 kilogram super heavyweight weightlifting title at the Atlanta Olympics Tuesday.

The 24-year-old Russian hoisted 260kg in the clean-and-jerk for a total lift of 457.5kg after lying third in the snatch section at 197.5kg.

German Ronny Weller raised Chemerkin's 15-month-old world mark by 1.5kg to 255kg. The German lay flat on his back, threw his shoes toward the crowd, thinking he had clinched gold.

But within 17 seconds Chemerkin had his world record back.

The 26-year-old Weller, who has moved up after winning the up-to-108kg heavyweight title at the 1992 Barcelona Games, took the silver with a total of 455kg after leading the snatch section along with Bulgarian-born Stefan Botev of Australia at 200kg.

"I thought I won the gold. Initially I was disappointed," said Weller who was also beaten by Chemerkin into second spot at the worlds in Guangzhou in China in November.

Botev settled for the bronze at 450kg after failing in his own world record attempt at 255kg.

Chemerkin, at 1.83m and 165kg, was not impressed by his rival's premature celebrations.

"Basically, I didn't see what Weller did. I don't care if he undressed on the stage. The only thing I cared was how to win," he said. "I would have tried higher if somebody else was closer."

The Police Academy student from the southern Russian town of Solnechnogorsk hopes to retain his title in Sydney and said: "If I am healthy enough I'll be there."

Aleksandr Kurlovich, back in competition after a year-long ban for the use of anabolic steriods, failed in his bid for a third straight Olympic gold.

The 24-year-old Belorussian barely got through the snatch section with a lift of 195kg after failing on his first two attempts.

He then withdrew after giving up his attempt at 247.5kg in the jerk. He finished fifth overall with a total of 425kg.

Leonid Taranenko of Belarus, the grand old man of weightlifting at age 40, who won the gold at the 1980 Moscow Games and the silver at Barcelona, withdrew due to an injury sustaind in training.

The new champion vowed to shun drugs, which have plagued the world of weightlifting but he griped that doping control had been tightened too much.

(AFP)

[illegible]

ATLANTA — Bart Jan Brentjens of the Netherlands became the first Olympic mountain bike champion here on Tuesday.

The 27-year-old world champion finished the 47.7km (29.6-mile) course over the Georgia International Horse Park in 2hr 17min 37sec.

Switzerland's Thomas Frischknecht, the World Cup winner, was 2min 35sec behind to take the silver.

France's Miguel Martinez 2min 57sec behind in third place.

Italian Paola Pezzo, the 1993 world champion, won the women's title defeating Canadian Alison Sydor, the 1994 and 1995 world champion, while bronze went to Susan Demattei of the United States.

Brentjens dominated the men's race from the start, breaking away with Italian Luca Bramati then shaking him off with 20km remaining.

(AFP)

[illegible]

ATLANTA — The Philippines and Thailand moved a step closer to historic Olympic gold boxing medals with quarterfinal victories at the Atlanta tournament on Tuesday.

Mansueto Velasco is on target for Philippines' first Olympic boxing title after a comfortable 20-10 points victory over Moroccan Hamid Berhili in the light flyweight class.

Bantamweight Khadpo Vichairachanon is close to fulfilling a mission for Thailand's first Olympic gold with an emphatic 13-4 verdict over Moroccan Hicham Nafil.

While the Asians guaranteed themselves of at least a bronze medal in Atlanta, Caribbean powerhouses Cuba qualified all their four boxers into semifinals bouts in Tuesday's two sessions.

Charismatic heavyweight Felix Savon, the five-time world champion and bidding for his second Olympic gold, and Olympic and world middleweight champion Ariel Hernandez posted expected points victories.

Savon terrorized Georgia's Giorgi Kandelaki with his fearsome right hand on the way to a 20-4 points verdict, while Hernandez did enough to weather rugged Russian Alexander Lebziak, 15-8.

Earlier, Arnaldo Mesa, who was scheduled to fight in the featherweight class but moved down one class to fill in for Olympic defector Joel Casamayor, saw off stalking Frenchman Rachid Bouaita, 15-8 in the bantamweight division.

Cuba's world champion and Olympic silver medalist Juan Hernandez outpointed Nurzhan Smanov of Kazakhstan 16-8 to also advance to the medal round in the welterweight division.

(AFP)

Barkley Readies From Round Two With Heal

ATLANTA — Charles Barkley and Shane Heal have already traded shoves and harsh words. Now they will meet again with a berth in the Olympic final at stake.

The United States dream team pounded Brazil 98-75 here on Tuesday to claim a berth in Thursday's semifinals opposite Australia, who stunned Croatia 73-71 in what veteran Andrew Gaze called their greatest-ever triumph.

The National Basketball Association stars beat Australia 118-77 in a pre-Olympic tuneup made notable by Barkley's shoving and yelling with Australian Guard Heal.

"He is a talkative little fellow, Barkley said of Heal. "He called me a couple of names I didn't appreciate and I told him I don't take that off Americans and I'm not going to take that off a foreigner."

Heal responded by saying many Americans supported him over Barkley.

"A lot of Americans have stepped up and said they would like to have done the same thing to him," Heal said. "We respect they are the greatest basketball players in the world. We aren't going to back down.

(AFP)

[illegible]

ATLANTA — Liu Guoliang and Kong Linghui of China won the Olympic men's doubles gold medal with a 21-8, 13-21, 21-19, 21-11 win over compatriots and defending champions Wang Tao and Lu Lin on Tuesday.

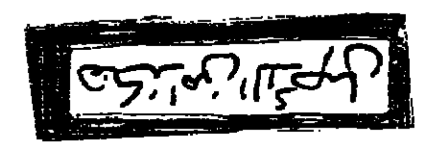
The bronze medal was won by Yoo Nam-Kyu and Lee Chul-Seung of South Korea who beat Germany's Steffen Fetzner and Joerg Rosskofp 21-18, 21-13, 22-20 in the third place playoff.

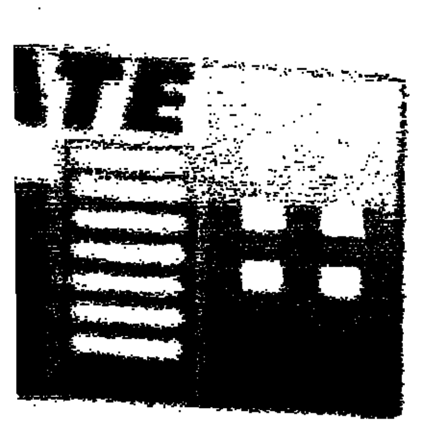
(AFP)



ATLANTA, GA, United States (July 30): Russian weightlifter Andrey Chemerkin of Russia in action during the Olympic snatch competition. Chemerkin later set a new world record in the jerk, lifting 260kg in the over 108kg category.

(AFP PHOTO)





Iran, Kyrgyzstan to Open Consulates

BISHKEK — Islamic Republic of Iran and the Republic of Kyrgyzstan have agreed to open consulates in 'Osh' and 'Mashhad' cities, disclosed the Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister for Europe and America, Mahmoud Vaezi on Wednesday.

Speaking to IRNA, Vaezi added that the agreement was reached during First Vice-President Hassan Habibi's recent visit to the Central Asian Republic.

Iranian Embassy in Bishkek was inaugurated in October 1993.

The depurty foreign minister said that since Iran and Kyrgyzstan share similar views on many reginal and international issues, they have decided to further expand their bilateral ties.

Clear policies of Tehran and Bishkek on expansion of political, cultural and economic ties within the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO), as well as their cooperation in areas related to the developments in Central Asia, are good examples of regular exchange of views between the officials of the two nations, Vaezi added.

The deputy foreign minister hoped that opening of Iran's Consulate in Osh, a Muslim dominated province, would further boost bilateral economic and cultural ties.

Osh, with a population of 167,000, is situated in southern Kyrgyzstan.

Israel, PLO Close to State Deal on Eve of Rabin's Assassination

BAIT-UL-MOQADDAS — Israel was close to sealing a secret accord to grant the Palestinians an independent state before the assassination of Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin in November, Israeli negotiators revealed on Wednesday.

Yair Hirschfeld, an architect of the Oslo autonomy deals, said a preliminary accord called for a state in the Gaza Strip and 90 percent of the West Bank, and for the Palestinian flag to fly over the Temple Mount in Bait-ul-Moqaddas.

The details of the verbal accord hammered out in October 1995 were confirmed by Yossi Beilin, minister for the peace process in the Labor government of Shimon Peres who took over as prime minister after Rabin's murder.

But close aides of Peres told AFP that the negotiations with the Palestinians did not have the government's official seal of approval.

"They were being supervised by Mr. Beilin without any authorization, behind the back of Rabin and Peres," one of the aides said, asking not to be identified.

Beilin himself said he met Rabin on November 1 to unveil the project with the Palestinians. It was to be discussed 10 days later, but a Jewish fanatic opposed to the peace process shot dead the prime minister on November 4.

"The assassination changed everything," said Beilin.

Zavgayev: Peace Breaking Out in Chechnya

MOSCOW — Doku Zavgayev, head of the pro-Russian government in Chechnya, sought support for his rule Wednesday by telling Moscow's wealthy Chechen community that there had been no fighting for a week in the republic.

Meeting with about 90 Chechens living in Moscow, mostly businessmen, Zavgayev called for support from all sides for his government, which is seen by many Chechens as a puppet regime and relies on the protection of the Russian military for its survival.

Zavgayev told the Chechen diaspora that the almost 20-month war was virtually over, despite daily reports by both sides that the bombing and shooting is continuing unabated.

"I say with authority that today is the eighth day that not a single bomb fell and not one shot was fired in Chechnya," he said.

The claim verged on the bizarre since Russian television shows footage daily of Russian cannons firing at Chechen positions and the Russian military itself admits it is still using warplanes to bomb in the south of the republic.

One angry questioner shouted at Zavgayev: "Is it normal in a civilized army when the officers are smashed on Vodka?"

"How come in Gekhi, where there were just 100 fighters, you fired rockets throughout the village of 14,000 people?" he asked. "Thank you Mr Zavgayev — Russian pilots are bombing Chechen children."

Zavgayev answered that the human rights situation was dramatically improved, and that the infamous "filtration camps," where hundreds of Chechens have allegedly been tortured or killed after arrest, had all been closed.

"It's not easy, but the situation is moving towards normalization," Zavgayev said.

"Reconstruction is going on. Life is returning," he said. (AFP)

Hamas Applauds Iran on Its Stance

KHARTOUM, Sudan — Hamas representative in Sudan Monir on Tuesday praised Iran's position towards the issue of Palestine. He said the Iranian position towards Palestine was based on Islamic principles and added that the Islamic Republic had always been the strongest backing to Palestine. (IRNA)

(Contd from Pg. 1)

MUSLIM...

As an advocate of Islamic unity I have attended several conferences on Islamic unity and found out that most of intellectual differences stem from lack of close contacts among Muslims. Fraternal approach among Muslims will definitely remove such differences, he added.

In order to bring about unity among the Muslim schools of thought, representatives of various schools of thought should maintain close contacts among themselves and settle differences in an amicable atmosphere, he added.

(Contd from Pg. 1)

FIVE...

jured and one died in separate incidents, military officials said.

Meanwhile, Russian jet planes bombed around the village of Shatoi, in the Caucasus mountains south of Grozny, "but not on inhabited areas," the military told Interfax.

The interior minister in the Russian-installed local authorities in Chechnya, Anatoly Taranov, told ITAR-TASS news agency that there had also been fighting in the southeast of the republic and that there had been two attacks on troops inside Grozny.

A spokesman for the Chechens, who have been fighting for independence in a brutal war since December 1994, was quoted by Interfax as saying that planes had bombed around several southern villages and that seven civilians had died and 10 been wounded.

The spokesman added that Chechens had prevented a Russian military column from pushing further into Chechen territory south of Shatoi during a half-hour firefight late Tuesday. (AFP)

(Contd from Pg. 1)

IRAQ...

The cost of the concerted operation against Iraq by the Western allies, which was paid by Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Germany and Japan, has been estimated at 70 billion dollars. Moreover, the damage inflicted on Kuwait and the cost of its reconstruction has been assessed at some 100 billion dollars.

Al-Dafiri further referred to Iran's role in maintaining peace and security in the Persian Gulf and said, "We are assured that Iran can play a major part in maintaining peace and stability in the region, and no regional security plan should be drawn up without Iran's active participation."

He also stressed, "There is no doubt that the security and stability in the Persian Gulf region must be maintained through the cooperation of the regional countries, and those countries themselves must take measures to this end."

In conclusion, al-Dafiri described as 'cordial' the bilateral ties between Iran and Kuwait and added that, within the next two months, a delegation headed by the Kuwaiti deputy finance minister is to visit Iran in order to finalize a memorandum of understanding on joint investment.

CORRECTION

In our article entitled "A Farewell to Remember" which appeared on page 15 of Monday's issue, July 29, 1996, Mr. Tariq Ehsan was erroneously referred to as the "Incoming Secretary-General" of the ECO.

The error is a mistake admitted but made in good faith due to lack of time to confirm the story.

The writer deeply regrets the error.

(Contd from Pg. 2)

BESHARATI...

sure that the criminals shall be punished."

He thanked Iran's assistances to the Azerbaijan Republic, especially Nakhjavan, and called for greater assistance of Iran.

The minister also called for joint cooperation of the two countries for eradication of narcotics and exchange of information in this respect.

The Azeri interior minister invited Besharati to visit the Azerbaijan Republic. The minister an the accompanying delegation visited the holy shrine of the late Imam Khomeini and paid homage to the founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

(IRNA)

(Contd from Pg. 1)

UN...

The Taleban warriors, who have besieged Kabul for 10 months, on Tuesday fired a volley of rockets which landed in the area of the city housing the German Embassy, where Holl was staying.

Nobody was injured in the latest attack on the suburb near the presidential palace, which takes an almost daily battering from rockets and shells.

Holl said he would ask the Taleban to stop shelling the war-torn city, but added "whether they will do it or not, I do not know."

Holl, a German diplomat who replaced the United Nations secretary-general's last envoy, Mahmoud Mestiri, avoided spelling out details of his peace mission, but said he would be making changes to Mestiri's plan.

"I will not be very specific at the begining of this mission but I definitely have a few plans and initiatives to get this process moving again," he said.

However, Holl did reveal he would be speaking not only to political and military leaders here, but also seeking the views of other elements of society, including intellectuals, judges and women's groups.

"Mr Mestiri and his predecessors kept talking to political leaders, but I want to broaden the spectrum of my contacts and want to hear more from those who do not belong to the political elite but who are intelligent and sound-minded people," he said.

He also said the United Nations would be coordinating its operations dealing with Afghanistan more closely and that his UN Special Mission to Afghanistan (UNSMA) would remain based inside Afghanistan.

But he said his mission would not move back to battered Kabul from the peaceful eastern city of Jalalabad until its safety could be guaranteed. (AFP)

(Contd from Pg. 1)

9TH...

thoughts closer in order that Muslim countries can better understand one another".

Unity means the execution of Islamic laws and adoption of unique stance by Muslims against enemies of Islam, he said.

(Contd from Pg. 1)

ARAB...

By the strategy, Arab nations would commit to "strengthen the punishments against perpetrators of terrorist acts and to freeze and seize monies directed to these acts," a final statement issued by the session said.

It also calls for "strengthening the cooperation against terrorism between the members" by "exchange of help in seaching for, investigating and arresting fugitives accused of or convicted of terrorist crimes."

The strategy defines terrorism as "acts of organized violence causing fear or panic" but not including "armed struggle by peoples under foreign occupation to free their lands and gain their rights of self-determination."

Salem said the strategy includes a "plan for implementation to be reviewed every five years." (AFP)

(Contd from Pg. 4)

THE PROPHET'S

could not mediate and make intellectual studies of nature, took notice of the truth and were attracted towards a quite different direction. The drying out of the Savah Lake awakened the people of another great region.

(Contd from Pg. 1)

CLITON...

Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak.

He noted, however, that no action has been taken on the plans which constitute a turnaround from the policies of the previous Labor-led governments which have frozen all settlement construction except around Bait-ul-Moqaddas since 1991.

"I don't want to blame them for something they haven't done yet," Clinton said, adding "we expect and believe that Israel will adhere to the agreements it has already made."

The U.S. president said Netanyahu had promised during his July 9 visit to honor previously signed accords giving the Palestinians self-rule in the West Bank and Gaza.

But Netanyahu has said his government will protect the "right of the Jews" to settle in the territories.

Mubarak warned against encroaching on any areas granted to the Palestinians. "It's going to complicate the whole process," he said. (AFP)

(Contd from Pg. 4)

PROPHETHOOD..

been devoted to the efforts of prophets in different regions of the Middle East. The culture and destiny of the societies from which Islam had emerged were thoroughly linked with the culture and destiny of the religions of these prophets. Quite naturally, the Holy Qoran while speaking of "Prophethood", call of prophets, their mission and ratification of the deviations brought by them in religion, constantly speaks of them and throws light upon their character.

Have there been ordained prophets in other parts and societies of teh world? In this respect, we must await the results of historical researches and explanations in future. The Holy Qoran, in general speaks in this regard: "We sent Messengers before three; of some We have related thee, and some we have not related thee".

(Contd from Pg. 1)

U.S. ...

"They agreed to make the moves as quickly as possible, in order to reduce disruption within Saudi Arabia, while improving security for U.S. forces," the embassy added.

"These moves will be initiated immediately and completed on an urgent basis, without interrupting ongoing operations," it said.

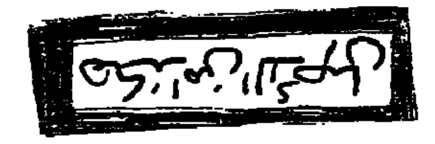
Washington has around 6,200 troops in Saudi Arabia, while London has around 400 military personnel and Paris around 110 troops at a base in the eastern city of Khobar.

The U.S., British and French air forces use Saudi bases to impose a flight ban over southern Iraq. This includes the base in Khobar, where a truck bomb on June 25 killed 19 Americans and wounded hundreds of others, including French troops.

A U.S. source said earlier that Perry would visit Kharj Air Base, around 80 kilometers (48 miles) south of the Saudi capital Riyadh, to help determine whether it would be secure enough against an attack.

A U.S. security task force said earlier this week that Kharj was the "prime candidate" for hosting U.S. troops once the decision to relocate them from Khobar and other sites had been taken.

The secretary of defense was also expected to ask Saudi officials to help pay part of the cost of relocating U.S. troops from more exposed urban areas like Khobar. (AFP)



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international news

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High-Flying Great-Grandma Takes Parachute Dive

ROMMEHED, Sweden — While other great-grandmothers sit in their rocking chairs looking back on life, the sky's the limit for Parachutist Hanna Sandstroem, 82.

The energetic senior, whose first jump was an 80th birthday present from her daughter, on Saturday parachuted for the second time.

Sandstroem jumped out of a Cessna plane at 4,000 meters (13,200 feet) in a tandem jump with Anders Staahl of the Dala Parachuting Club in central Sweden, as her great-grandchildren waited for her on the ground, the Dala newspaper said. (AFP)

Money Owed to Shakespeare's Father to Be Repaid

LONDON — Money owed to William Shakespeare's father, who was mayor of Stratford-upon-Avon in 1599, will be paid back to his civic successor almost 400 years late, the Daily Express newspaper said Tuesday.

Derick Smithers, who has followed the father of Shakespear, was due to drive to Marlborough, southwest England, where the town's mayor, Charles Bates, will hand over the 21 pounds (32 dollars) at a public ceremony.

But Marlborough has decided not to repay interest on the debt, which would be worth about 150,000 pounds (230,000 dollars) at today's prices. (AFP)

16 Killed at Railway Station

JOHANNESBURG — Sixteen people were killed and some 40 others injured Wednesday during a stampede by early morning commuters at a railway station near here, the emergency services said.

The ticket queue fracas erupted at the Tembisa Railway Station when security guards used electrified prods to repel the crowd as they surged into the station across a footbridge, police spokesman Kamal Shivanan said.

President Nelson Mandela, in a statement, described the incident as "a national tragedy" and promised a full investigation.

Witnesses said bodies were scattered on the platform and on the tracks, and it is thought that some people were trampled while others jumped to their deaths from the bridge in a bid to avoid the crush. (AFP)

Regional States Impose Economic Sanctions on Burundi

ARUSHA, Tanzania — Delegates to a regional summit decided Wednesday to impose economic sanctions against the tiny central African state of Burundi and condemned last Thursday's coup d'etat there by the Tutsi-dominated army, the final communique said.

The summit took no definitive action to revive a plan to send a regional peacekeeping force to Burundi, where tens of thousands of people have died since Tutsi soldiers assassinated the country's first Hutu President, Melchior Ndadaye, in October 1993.

It did however call for the application of decisions taken at a similar summit on Burundi in this northern Tanzanian town on June 25, when the regional leaders agreed to a request by the Hutu president and Tutsi prime minister then in power for military assistance.

No Burundian representatives took part, but rival delegations representing Buyoya and Ntibantunganya lobbied delegations here before the summit opened.

The leaders decided to put "maximum pressure on the regime of Burundi, including the imposition of economic sanctions, in order to bring about the conditions of return to normality," the communique said. (AFP)

Security Guard Who Found Olympic Bomb Is Prime Suspect

ATLANTA — The security guard who discovered the Olympic park bomb is now a prime suspect for the deadly attack, news reports said Tuesday.

Richard Jewell, 33, works for a private security company at the Centennial Olympic Park where a bomb last Saturday left two dead and 112 injured.

The bulky former law enforcement agent was hailed as a hero after guiding dozens of people away from the bomb before it exploded and for the help he gave after.

Jewell has not been charged and the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) would not comment on the Atlanta *Journal* newspaper report which named him. But CNN television said FBI sources had confirmed the report. Jewell has refused to speak to reporters.

An FBI spokesman told AFP: "You know the way we work. As long as we have not held or charged someone we do not make a comment."

The *Journal* said Jewell was "the focus of the Federal Investigation into the incident" adding that he "fits the profile of the lone bomber." (AFP)



ATLANTA, GA, United States: (FILES) File photo dated July 28 1996 shows security guard Richard Jewell, 33, posing for photographers the day after he alerted police to the pipe bomb whose explosion killed one person and injured 112 in the Centennial Olympic Park. Jewell denied July 30 that he was a suspect in the FBI investigation, as a local newspaper reported. (AFP PHOTO)

Filipina Maid Leaves UAE

DUBAI — Filipina maid Sarah Balabagan left the United Arab Emirates on a flight to Manila on Wednesday after she was released from a jail sentence for killing her Emirati employee, the embassy said.

"She is on her way to Manila," Carmelita HHdalgo, the assistant to ambassador Roy Seneres told AFP, adding Seneres was travelling with her.

A UAE Islamic court initially sentenced her to death in 1994, when she was 16, for the killing of her 85-year-old Arab employer whom she charged had raped her.

The Emirate's ruler ordered a retrial following appeals by Manila in October 1995 another court subsequently sentenced her to a one-year prison term. (AFP)

Former Indian Premier Spared Court Appearance

NEW DELHI — India's Supreme Court on Wednesday exempted former Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao from appearing before a magistrate here Friday in connection with a fraud case.

The court, in response to an appeal filed by the former premier, said Rao would not have to appear as scheduled on Friday before New Delhi metropolitan magistrate Prem Kumar.

But the court left open the possibility that the 75-year-old Congress (I) Party leader may be forced to make a personal appearance before the magistrate at a later date.

Magistrate Kumar on July 9 named Rao a co-accused in the fraud case filed by a London-based Indian businessman and issued a summons ordering him to appear in court here on August 2.

Rao has challenged the summons in the courts and is seeking to have his name dropped from the case.

The Supreme Court on Wednesday said it would hear Rao's appeal on August 12. (AFP)

Saragossa Bomb Attack Injures Two

SARAGOSSA, Spain — A bomb blast rocked a French car dealership Wednesday in northeast Spain, injuring two people in the latest of a wave of attacks blamed on Basque separatists.

One of those injured in the blast at the Citroen dealership, an employee at the firm, was in critical condition.

The Interior Ministry said no particular terrorist organization could be blamed until analysis of the explosives had been carried out. However, police said they suspected the Basque separatist organization ETA, which has previously attacked car dealers, was behind the attack.

A package which had been left in front of the dealership at Calatayud, near Saragossa, exploded as car dealer Herminio Ibanez, accompanied by his son Sergio, took it inside and tried to open it, local government officials said. (AFP)

Jakarta Activists Jittery Over Riot Questionings

JAKARTA — Jakarta was on edge Wednesday as the government began rounding up political opponents, arrested a union official and forced left wing activists into hiding.

A military chief blamed the People's Democratic Party (PRD) for days of unrest in the capital since rioting last Saturday and charged the party with attempting to overthrow the government. Police said all members of the party were wanted in connection with the riots.

Lieutenant General Syarwan Hamid said Wednesday the PRD was similar in its form and objectives to the Indonesian Communist Party (PKI), banned after a bloody coup attempt in 1965 which was blamed largely on the party.

Members of the PRD, a national umbrella group of workers, students and farmers, have gone into hiding. Sources close to the group said some key party leaders had fled the capital.

The group continued to send e-mail via the internet updating their version of the riots.

Police have asked President Suharto for permission to question six speakers who addressed a political free speech forum at the headquarters of an opposition party here. (AFP)

JAKARTA, Indonesia (July 31): Riot police guard the sacked headquarters of the Indonesian Democracy Party (PDI), as journalists were led on an inspection tour. Military head for socio-political affairs Lieutenant General Sharwan Hamid stepped up accusation on a pro-democracy group over the recent violence in the capital. (AFP PHOTO)

At Least 62 Drowned in Indian Ferry Disaster

GUWAHATI, India — At least 62 people drowned when an overcrowded ferry sank overnight in a rain-swollen river in the remote far eastern Indian state of Arunachal Pradesh, police said Wednesday.

At least 20 passengers were missing, a police spokesman told AFP in Guwahati, the capital of the neighboring state of Assam.

The ferry was carrying more than 80 passengers and two vehicles when it sank late Tuesday in the Nadihing River, the spokesman said.

Indian army divers on Wednesday joined a massive search operation in the swirling waters of the Nadihing, police said. They fished 10 more bodies out of the water on Wednesday to take to 62 the number of known fatalities so far. (AFP)

Thousands of Tamils Displaced, Facing Starvation

COLOMBO — Tamil guerrillas said Wednesday that thousands of Tamil civilians faced starvation after fleeing their homes in Sri Lanka's north to escape heavy shelling by the advancing military.

The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) said nearly 200,000 Tamils had deserted their homes following "indiscriminate" artillery attacks in and around the northern town of Kilinochchi.

An LTTE statement from London said the military shelling was to avenge the loss of an entire garrison in the town of Mullaitivu in the northeast where more than 1,200 soldiers were allegedly killed by the Tigers two weeks ago.

"The magnitude of the human tragedy is far grave," the statement said.

The LTTE said hundreds of army troops were poised to wrest Kilinochchi from the guerrillas. The Sri Lankan military had blocked all food traffic to the sprawling LTTE-controlled region of Sri Lanka for the past two weeks, coinciding with the start of the Mullaitivu battle.

"Most of them have taken shelter along the roads and under trees and are exhausted," it said. (AFP)

Typhoon Herb Approaches Taiwan

TAIPEI — A man was killed and two others were missing as typhoon Herb, the biggest storm yet this season, approached Taiwan with gusts of up to 234 kilometers (145 miles) per hour, police said Wednesday.

Eight other people, including a journalist for a local newspaper, were injured either by falling objects or in car accidents caused by strong wind, police said.

The year's most threatening storm with a scope of 700 kilometers (434 miles) in diameter, Herb also caused the cancellation of a maiden flight to Kaohsiung, Taiwan's second largest city in the south, by Hong-Kong based Dragonair.

Herb was expected to make landfall later Wednesday in northeastern Taiwan. Its center was predicted to move to Taipei by Thursday, the Central Weather Bureau said. (AFP)

TEHRAN TIMES

THURSDAY AUGUST 1, 1996; MORDAD 11, 1375; RABIUL-AWAL 15, 1417

8-page special issue on Unity Week

LATE IMAM KHOMEINI:

Muslims Should Hold Fast to Islam and Qoran



Excerpts from Imam Khomeini's Will and Testament

Tehran Times Service

Dear sisters and brothers:

Wherever you are defend your Islamic and national honor. Defend Muslim countries against the plots of the United States and International Zionism and expose the enemies of Islam.

My dear Muslim brothers and sisters. You are aware that Western and Eastern "superpowers" rob us of our spiritual and material riches in order to keep us in poverty and, thereby, politically, economically, culturally and militarily dependent on them. Come to your senses and regain your Islamic identity. Reveal the plots of international expansionist powers—the United States being their chief.

Today the Muslims' No. 1 enemy is Israel. This cancer of the Middle East martyrs our Palestinian and Lebanese brothers and tries to sow discord among Muslims with the use of all its Satanic powers.

The Muslim world is obviously suffering from oppression in the hands of the United States. We should spread the message of God to Muslims everywhere that there is only one God to whom we owe obedience.

Oh Muslims of the world! The secret of Islamic countries is the truth that we hold and the key to victory is the unity of the Islamic world. The Almighty God has commanded us to hold fast to Him and not to be scattered. The command expresses the need to maintain unity among Muslims everywhere and warns us against divisions and cliques which can lead to our downfall and suffering.

We must pursue a sound foreign policy, preserve our independence, secure the interests of the country and cultivate good relations with countries that do not intend to interfere in our affairs. And, we must avoid anything that may lead to dependence in those areas.

Know that dependence on others may appear useful at the moment and may even yield much fruit, but in the long run will destroy the country at its roots. Make every effort to improve relations with Islamic countries, awaken their officials and unite together and with God.

My advice to Muslim nations: Do not wait for external help in order to reach your objectives, i.e., the acceptance of Islamic teachings and tenets. You yourselves must rise and take up the challenge which will lead to your independence and freedom. Let the honorable ulema (Muslim clergy) and concerned preachers of all Islamic states call on their governments to extricate themselves from dependence on big powers and learn to depend on their own strength. Victory shall then be ours.

Convince all nations to join hands in unity. Avoid racism which is against the teachings of

(Contd on Pg. 7)

AYATOLLAH KHAMENEI:

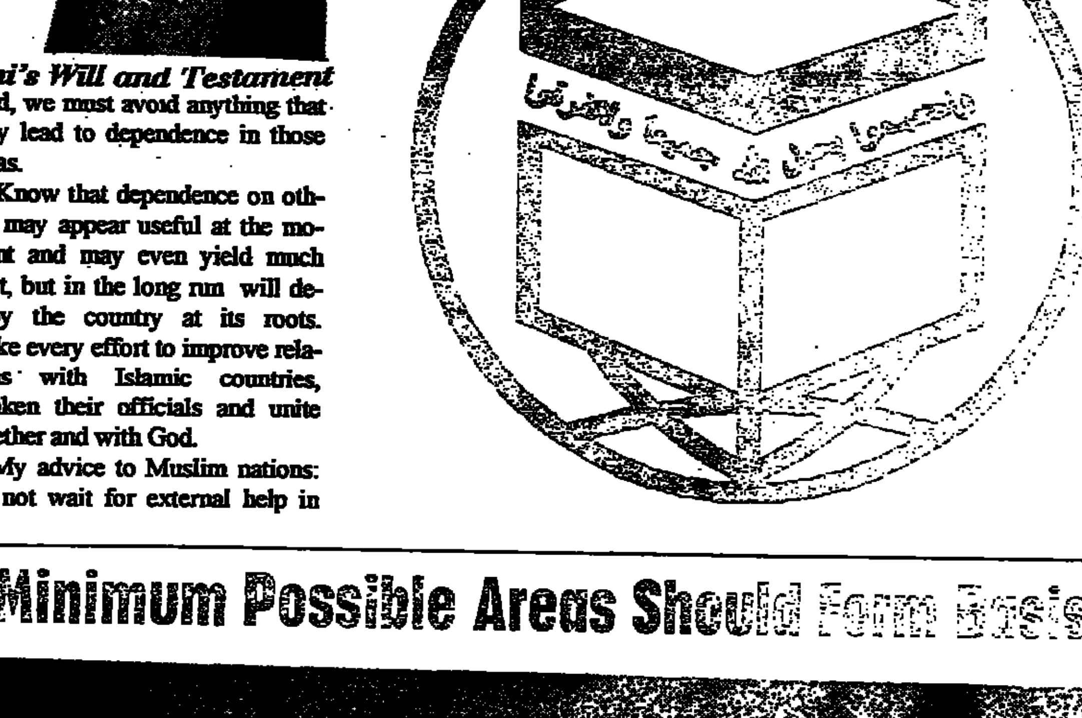
Muslims Should Form a United Bloc

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN — The Supreme Leader of the Islamic Revolution, Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei, stressing the importance of Muslim unity in a speech delivered a few years ago at the World Unity Conference, said that one of the basic goals of colonial powers since their arrival in Eastern and Islamic countries was to create a rift among Muslims.

He said several means and methods were used by such powers such as the intensification of the nationalistic feelings in the local residents, magnifying ethnic





differences and dissatisfaction, adding that the corrupt governments who were dependent on such powers undoubtedly had a role to play.

Referring to the geo-political importance of Muslim states and their population which are dispersed in the richest areas of the world, Ayatollah Khamenei spoke of the incongruity wherein poverty is found in areas abundant in wealth.

"Despite their geo-political importance, world Muslims are a religious minority or, where they constitute an absolute majority, are living in unfavorable political and social conditions," the Leader stressed.

At the same time, he said, the Holy Qoran and its sublime teachings enjoin Muslims to aim for perfection in all areas of human life including science, ethics, social justice and government, Ayatollah Khamenei added.

He pointed to the necessity for Muslims not to give in to bullying, saying confidently that Muslims are not in an inferior situation and should hold tight to Islamic values.

The Leader said that the Muslim situation is not something they are born with or chosen to be in but a situation imposed on them by the powers of global arrogance.

He said Muslims are bent on achieving real unity which, without ignoring legal principles, stems from a realization by different sects, Sunni or Shia, that they have a common enemy and that there is a need for them to try to come closer and reach a mutual understanding.

Urging the ulema of different Islamic sects to study and compare various schools of thought, the Supreme Leader stressed that there are different principles in the two sects which are similar in nature and that this fact will become clear after discussions.

With a glance at the international arena, one can see that a gigantic Islamic move is underway, he said adding that the world is moving toward accepting Islamic values. No matter the U.S.-led arrogant powers want or not, Muslims have woken up and are

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Minimum Possible Areas Should Form Basis of Muslim Unity



Tehran Times Service

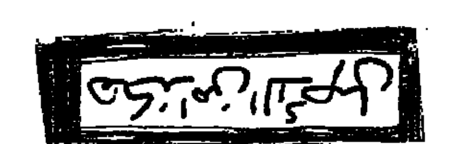
TEHRAN — At the time when the arrogant powers have got rid of confrontations of bipolar international system, they may target Muslim world, President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani warned Muslim countries in his address to the Sixth International Conference on Islamic Unity.

He urged the conference to set certain goals for the conference in a bid to be able to evaluate the outcome of the conference in the future.

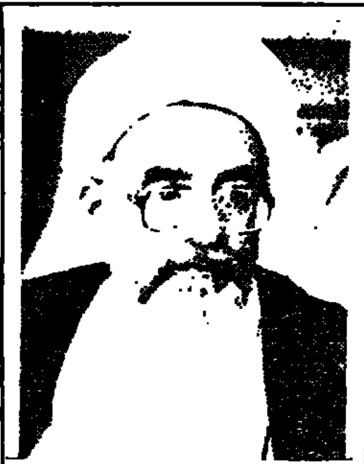
Unity will bring ample fruits, for instance, one of the most immediate results which the conference can yield is to create an Islamic bloc which we lack at present, he said.

The least that the unity confer-

(Contd on Pg. 7)



Muslim Ulema Laid the Foundation for Unity Movement



BI-AZAR-E SHIRAZI
Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN – "Thanks to the efforts of a number of renowned Muslim scholars, the Cairo Assembly for Convergence of Islamic Schools of Thought has rendered significant services to the Muslim World," Hojjatoleslam Abdolkarim Bi-Azar-e Shirazi told the *Tehran Times*.

On the occasion of Unity Week, Hojjatoleslam Shirazi told the *Tehran Times* that the achievements of the Cairo Proximity House may be attributed to the relentless efforts of the Muslim ulema and constitute the backbone of the movement for unity aimed at bringing closer the various Islamic sects.

Speaking on the eve of Unity Week which started Monday, July 29, 1996, Hojjatoleslam Shirazi described briefly the different aspects of the movement for unity.

He started by saying that the movement for proximity of Islamic sects was born out of a common pain inflicted by the bitter experience of confrontation between the Ottoman Empire and the Safavid dynasty.

"Powerful Shia kings of the Safavid dynasty who ruled Iran for a long time and Sunni Ottoman emperors who dominated major parts of Europe and Asia could not see eye to eye such that fighting erupted between countries under the two ruling powers.

"Both Shia and Sunnis became victims of the bloody clashes between the governments of the two ruling powers," he said.

The hojjatoleslam stressed that although Christians came out victorious in the war and many Muslim territories were confiscated, Muslims learned the lesson that they ought to put aside their sectarian differences.

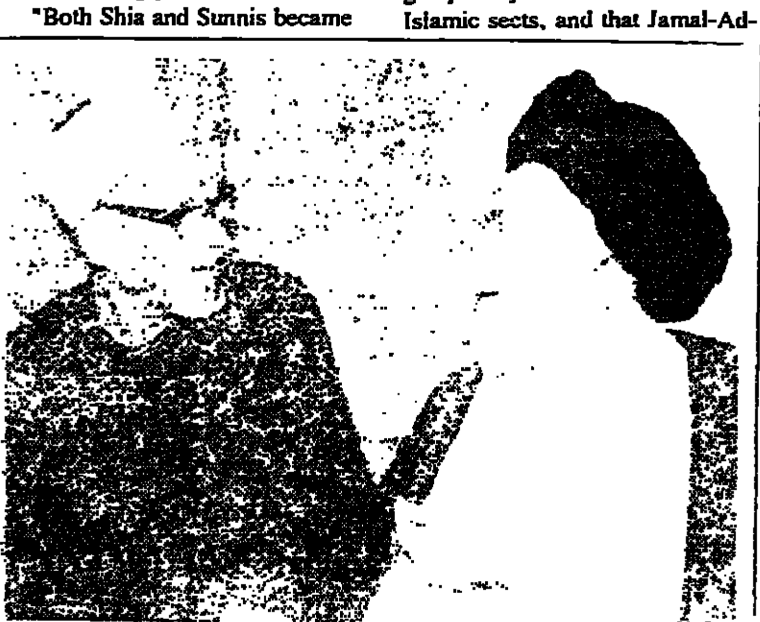
He said the idea was first grasped by the ulema of various Islamic sects, and that Jamal-Ad-din Assadabadi, Mohammad Abdo, Kavakebi, Iqbal Lahouri, Seyed Qotb, Abdul-Majid Salim, Hassan Al-Banna, Mohammad Rashid Reza were the forerunners of this reform movement.

Later the idea spread and was welcomed by Ayatollah Hossein Borujerdi, Alameh Abdul-Hussein Sharaf Addin, Alameh Mohammad Hussein Kashef Al-Gheta, he said.



Sheikh Mahmoud Shaltout was a great Muslim scholar who joined the Association for Convergence of Muslims from the very beginning of its foundation. He took great strides for solidarity among Muslim schools of thought. When he became the head of Al-Azhar University in Egypt, he incorporated the Comparative Study of Shii Fiqh in the syllabus of the university. He further issued a historic fatwa allowing the following of Imami schools of thought which has been one of the foundations of unity among Muslim schools of thought.

From the very start of his movement, the Late Imam Khomeini also emphasized the need for cultivations of Islamic fraternity among Muslims and that the Imam devoted a major part of his life working for this end. With the departure of the Late Imam, the cause was taken up by the Supreme Leader of the Islamic Revolution, Ayatollah Khamenei who set up the World Assembly for Proximity of Islamic Sects.



The two great Sunni and Shii leaders, Aytollah Milani and Shaykh Mohammad Fahham conferring on Muslim affairs.

"It was through the joint efforts of these Muslim ulema that Muslims from all across the Muslim world convened the Cairo Assembly for Convergence of Islamic Schools of Thought which meets on the sidelines of Al-Azhar University in Egypt.

"Following an exchange of works by Muslims from different sects, the ground was prepared for the Chancellor of Al-Azhar University, Sheikh Mahmoud Shaltout, to issue his historic fatwa," Hojjatoleslam Shirazi, a theology instructor in Iran's Al-Zahra University, said.

In his fatwa, Shaltout pronounced all Islamic sects as basically similar to each other and that every Muslim is free to follow the sect of his choice.

Shaltout's fatwa brought about a great revolution which was taken up by other Muslim leaders," Shirazi said.

He said that the Cairo Assembly for Convergence of Islamic Schools of Thought has had several ups and downs due to changes in political and social conditions, but remains active in the movement for unity.

Hojjatoleslam Shirazi said that although enemies have for some time plotted against the activities of the Cairo Assembly for Convergence of Islamic Schools of Thoughts there has been no known serious sectarian clashes occurring between the Islamic sects.

"The fact points to the fruitfulness of its activities," he concluded.

He said the spirit of understanding and open-mindedness of one billion Muslims of the world as another indication of the success of the unity movement.

Hojjatoleslam Shirazi said that from the very start of his movement, the late Imam Khomeini also emphasized the need for cultivation of Islamic fraternity among Muslims and that the Imam devoted a major part of his life working for this end.

With the departure of the late Imam, the cause was taken up by the Supreme Leader of the Islamic Revolution, Ayatollah Khamenei who set up the World Assembly for Proximity of Islamic Sects.

As a member of the supreme council of the assembly, Shirazi said that holding conferences, exchanging dialogues, publishing books and magazines are among the various activities of the assembly.

He further urged the ulema to inform people on the obstacles that hinder proximity of the various Islamic sects, adding that arrogant powers who see restoration of Muslim dignity as detrimental to their continued existence and those ignorant of Muslim objec-

(Contd on Pg. 7)



The late Ayatollah Boroujerdi, one of the ardent advocates of Muslim unity, played a great role in preparing the ground for unity among Muslims. As soon as the late leader of world Shias, late Ayatollah Boroujerdi came to know about the call for convergence of Muslims, he joined the movement with full enthusiasm. In all his letters and communications, he stressed unity among Muslims. He was so concerned about unity among Muslims that in the last few minutes of his life, he said: "Has Mr. Qomi (the founder of Association for Convergence of Muslims) gone to Egypt? Convergence of Muslims is a great service. I had a dream for bringing about understanding among Muslims and was determined to write to Shaykh Shaltut to prepare a ground for removing misunderstanding among Muslims."



From left to right: Shaykh Hassan al-Banna (the founder and the first leader of Muslim Brotherhood of Egypt), Ali Moayyed (the representative of Zaydi Shias in Yemen), Abd al-Majid Salim (the great Faqih and former head of Al- Azhar), Amjad al-Zohawi (great leader of Iraqi Sunnis), Amin al-Hussein (Palestinian Muslims' leader), Shaykh Alusi (son of Alusi, the author of the renowned *Alusi Exegesis*), Mohammad Taqi al-Qomi (the founder and secretary general of the Association for Convergence of Muslims).

Imam Khomeini's ... to Unity Among Muslims



By late Hojjatdeslam Seyed Ahmad Khomeini

TEHRAN — Following is an excerpt from late Hojjatdeslam Seyed Ahmad Khomeini's speech on the ideas of Imam Khomeini on unity among Muslims.

Studying the ideas of a person who himself was the harbinger of unity in his time and who succeeded in founding a divine system in Islamic Iran, will definitely pave the way for the followers of this line.

The divine nature of man is inclined towards monotheism. Man's wisdom and reason in all periods, so along as they are not contaminated by satanic temptations, are inclined towards unity and are against division and disunity.

The divine messenger from Adam to the Seal of the Prophets (S), laid the foundation of their call to religion on unity, monotheism and refutation of the manifestation of dualism, trinity, and hypocrisy in all their forms. Belief in monotheism is the final demarcation between Islam and blasphemy.

All philosophical, gnostic, moral and kalami schools of Islam follow a monotheistic approach to the universe and its components. Indeed, inclination towards true unity and monotheism is among the manifestations of belief in monotheism versus pluralism which is among the salient features of materialism and blasphemy.

The Holy Qoran refers to the setting up of a united ummah as a prelude to a groundwork for setting up the best of ummah. Confrontation between the right and the wrong throughout the history in all its forms stems from the confrontation between monotheism and blasphemy. Imam Khomeini says: *"Disunity stems from Satan, unity in word and action is a blessing from Allah."*

Unfortunately, the domination of the West over Islamic countries has blocked the development of human sciences on the basis of an approach inspired by divine revelation. Islamic approach in human sciences could open new horizons in social, political fields and offer practical solutions to socio-political problems.

Today most of sociologists and psychologists as well as educational experts in Islamic societies try to solve the problems of their societies through approaches that have their roots in materialistic schools.

Skirmishes, confrontations and disputes at international level are growing and the number of victims of such disputes increase every day. Side by side a great chunk of the resources of nations are funnelled into the purse of warmongers and those who divide nations in order to rule. History has proved that none of the materialistic approaches have so far been able to settle disputes and remove tensions. On the contrary, they have fanned the flames of crises, tensions and skirmishes.

Today all scholars who are familiar with the history of the nations are aware of the fact that nationalism, ethnicism and casteism are merely mirages and the cartographies of today stem from the fact that many people think such disciplines can save them.

Humanity has several times experienced the miraculous results of monotheistic approaches to life. If there is any stage of history which is defendable, the impact of monotheism can definitely be traced in that stage. Indeed, inequity, bloodshed and skirmishes began when man deviated from the natural, monotheistic right path that the divine prophets had preached.

The technological, materialistic advances of human society, on the one hand, and the moral deterioration of man on the other, indicate that man's salvation should be searched somewhere else. Yes, if man's materialistic advances are not used as a means for a divine ends, and the advance itself is taken as an ends, the end result will be the present deadlock. Which human problem has been solved by the man-made schools?

The issue of unity and the ways to materialize them cannot be discussed in isolation from the above-mentioned problems. We have witnessed that the international bodies, wet up to bring about unity among nations and governments and reduce tension, in most cases have not been successful. On the contrary, they have been instrumental in the creation of tension by big powers. Hundreds of unions and alliances that were formed among nations with the hope of bringing about cooperation and unity among them have been abrogated before yielding any result.

Since long time back several political figures or parties have raised the issue of unity among Muslims in Islamic societies and captured power on the basis of raising the issue of unity among Muslims. Hundreds of books and articles have been written on the unity among Muslims. But there is no practical step towards this end. In my opinion the roots of the failure in this regard should be searched in the basic issues. The lack of attention to basic issues will make all efforts unsuccessful.

The main problem lies in man and his belief. When the spirit of monotheism and the basic moral principles necessary for inclination towards unity are not prevailing in human societies, such efforts will remain fruitless. Unity and the necessity to maintain it is not merely a social recommendation or an ephemeral political tactic for safeguarding common material interests. It is not possible to have monotheistic mentality in belief but remain indifferent towards the fate of others in practice.

Is it possible to believe in unity but practice disunity? How is it that when the herald of monotheism reaches those who were frustrated with inequity and blasphemy, in the early days of Islam, they discard blasphemy, ethnicism, tribalism and family pride. Also it was also after the advent of Islam that all factors, causing disunity, vanished in the light of belief in God to the extent that best of Ummah comes to existence?

In a short time peoples and nations, irrespective of their nationality, geographical location etc., embrace the new faith. Why don't Muslims give due importance to the concept of Ummah that has been given a great deal of importance in the Holy Qoran? Why do the concepts of nationality, geography, historical background, etc. etc. are given priority over the concept of Ummah?

In fact the only way to restore Islamic glory of the past is unity among all Muslim sects, forces and nations. We should concentrate on the analysis of factors that have prevented us from having a belief in the concept of Ummah and the factors that have created a rift among Muslims. Hence we must hold fast to the Holy Qoran, the charter of guidance of the Ummah and the firmest pivot of unity among them.

The main problem is that most of Muslims including Muslim scholars have ceased to think that Islam is a comprehensive, integrated school of thought with inextricable set of values and teachings. Borrowing from other schools, specially in the fields of economy and politics has made the situation so difficult that it is almost impossible to realize the need for unity among Muslims, rendering all efforts fruitless.

If the spirit of the teachings of the Prophet (S) and the Holy Qoran prevail in the society, unity in its highest possible form would be restored among Muslims. The society that the prophets aimed at setting up are far beyond the concepts of nation, government or ethnic groups that prevail today.

The understanding of these issues is not possible without relying on fundamental ideological bases. Unless those bases are consolidated in Islamic societies, it is not possible to attain any achievement in this regard. We should return to our Islamic culture without any borrowing form other schools. Efforts for unity should begin from ourselves.

Effort for unity and shunning disunity is an obligatory issue stemming from the belief in monotheism. The advocates of disunity are the followers of Satan. Unity can be materialized only when all Muslims reach the conclusion that unity is an obligatory divine command.

Imam Khomeini succeeded in overthrowing the monarchy system in Iran because he himself believed in unity. In the struggle against the Pahlavi regime, Imam Khomeini believed in unity as a crucial factor. The first statement issued by him some 50 years ago indicated that he believed in unity. the statement begins with the Qoranic verse, *"Say: I exhort you only to one thing, that rise up for Allah's sake in twos and singly,..."* (34:46) The lion's share of the statement calls for unity among Ummah as a groundwork for uprising in the way of Allah.

In his book, *Forty Traditions*, Imam Khomeini while elaborating on the concept of unity, writes: One of the main reasons for the appointment of the prophets, besides setting up utopia, is unity in word and belief, eradication of inequity—which is detrimental to utopia and corruption of man. This great task cannot be materialized except through unity among the members of the Ummah. In a true unity, the members of the society will feel as if they are one person and the nation will become identical to one individual. All efforts will be carried out for fulfillment of one great divine goal which is in the interest of individuals and society. If such a unity and fraternity is materialized among the members of a group or nation, they can overcome all groups and nations who lack such a unity and fraternity. This is easily discernible in the history of wars in Islam and its great victories.

Muslims are bound to be friend and cooperative among themselves. Whatever factor consolidates this unity and fraternity is welcomed, whatever undermines it, is against the teachings of Islam.

To Imam Khomeini unity is a kind of blessing. To him unity is not possible without certain prerequisites: We should try to prepare a ground for this blessing to perpetuate; that is, we should try to adopt divine values and follow them, serve the people in the way of Allah and obey God, only then unity can be materialized, for disunity belongs to Satan and unity among Muslims is a divine blessing.

Imam Khomeini says: If all prophets gather in a single place, they will not be having any differences among themselves because they control their selves and obey God.

Imam Khomeini was of the opinion that only that kind of unity was durable that was based on indisputable principles.

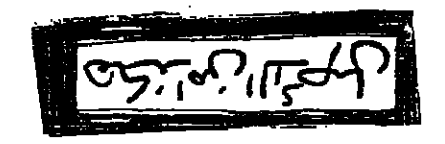
We should get united on the basis of Qoranic teachings. Differences of opinion on one issue or another should not hinder our unity, but this is important to hold fast to the divine covenant. The prophets have not come to unify people in all affairs, they have come to unite them in the right path.

Indeed the secret of Imam's successful leadership in uniting the Iranian nation against the enemy was unity among nation on this issue. We come across this point in almost all his messages: If we remain committed to the command of God and practice God's commands and get united, without any doubt we will be the winner. The key to victory is in the hands of the nation. Nations should realize that the main factor responsible for its victory was the practice of Allah's command: *"And hold fast to the covenant of Allah all together and be not disunited..."* (3:103).

Imam Khomeini believed that unity was a religious obligation for every citizen of Iran. He laid special emphasis on this issue so far as the officials were concerned.

He was of the opinion that a heavy cost should be paid for unity. He was a pioneer in this regard. (Contd on Pg. 7)





Political Approach to Islamic Unity

Tehran Times Service

Political approach is not in fact the real approach to bring about unity among Islamic schools of thought, rather it deals with the unity of Muslims in general. The aim of the idea of unity of Islamic schools of thought is to attain a kind of unity at social and political level so that to resolve the present problems of the Muslims. However, unity of Islamic schools of thought would bring in its wake some social, political, cultural, and scientific developments among Muslims, for instance it may lead to a kind of scientific cooperation and research work on various fields of Islamic sciences which ultimately resulted in scientific growth.

First Plan: Single Islamic Government

This plan is not a realistic plan and is possible only at imaginary level. To bring all people and Islamic countries under one platform and establishing one Islamic government require the unity of their political institutions, judiciary system, and monetary matters.

This idea is proposed by those who have the ideal of forming a single Islamic government similar to the government of Muslims at early Islamic era. These people do not take into account the present problems in their analysis.

It is true that Muslims at the time of the Prophet of Islam and the rightly guided had a single government and in the ninety years reign of Bani Umayyia and the period of Bani Abbas also they had strong central government.

Then in mid second century Hijrah, two independent governments were established in the western side of the world of Islam. In the eastern side of Islam also some factional governments like Saffarids came into being.

During the reign of Mansoor Davaneghi, the second ruler of Bani Abbas, Andolos came under the rule of Abdul Rahman.

Anyhow, in tenth century Hijri onward, three great powers were ruling over Islamic countries. These three powers were: Ottoman power(1516-1924) in Turkey. Safavid power in Iran. Moghuls in Indian subcontinent.

By the passage of time , these governments faced with splits and crises and limited their rules to a certain places. Then some Muslim thinkers tried to review the rule the Califs, as in India and Egypt Khilafat movements started to meet such goal.

Seyed Jamaludin Asadabadi popularly known as al-Afghani followed up such idea, though it is not none as why did Jamaluddin try to call the heads of the Muslim countries to unity. Indeed, it requires a profound research work to find out the reason .

But there is no doubt that Seyed Jamal tried his best to review Islamic unity . Though his wish never came true in his life time.



Anyhow, when we say that this idea, that is, forming a single Islamic government in the world is an unrealistic idea we mean to say that firstly Muslim rulers never agree to leave their seats. Secondly, Muslim nations are from different races, tribes, schools of thought, and have different languages, hence, they hardly agree to free themselves from nationalistic feelings. Thirdly, let us assume that Muslim nations agree to unite and form a single government, but colonial powers of the West and the East do not keep silence and try to suppress such idea.

For instance, super powers made their utmost efforts to prevent the influence of the Islamic Revolution of Iran in different Muslim countries such as Algeria, Sudan, Egypt, Bosni Herzegovina etc.

Second Idea: Union of Islamic Republic

If by union of Islamic Republic it means a federal system of state similar to the former Soviet Union or federal states of America, then such system requires again a central government. There is hardly any difference between this idea and that of the first idea.

If by union of Islamic Republic it means each Muslim country form an independent Islamic Republic with their own flag, language, money and nationality but having united stand in foreign policy, economic and having special cooperation in the fields of industry and scientific activities, then such idea is realistic and is possible to work it out. Apparently the organizers of the Islamic Organization of Islamic Conferencehad such idea in their minds, through, except in certain cases, they were not hitherto successful. But if the representatives of the Islamic countries with higher knowledge in the fields of politics, economics, religious studies draft a comprehensive constitution then it can be hopeful.

But the problem is that some of the governments are not independent and taking any step they have to consult their bosses. Such problems are responsible behind the failure of the OIC.

Third Idea: Single Leadership or Council of Leadership

This idea is supported by Iranian scholars. The founder of the Islamic Revolution, the Late Imam Khomeini and the Supreme Leader Ayatollah Khamenei lay emphasis on this kind of leadership.

There are many other Islamic scholars and leaders through out the world who subscribe to such leadership. For instance the late Dr. Kalim Sidiqui in London, Ibrahim Zakzaki in Nigeria, Mohammad Hadi Awong in Malaysia advocate such idea.

Fourth Idea: Agreements and Treaty

This idea is implemented between some Muslim countries. For example ECO is a treaty between three countries of Iran, Pakistan and Turkey and some other Muslim countries also joined this group.

As a matter of fact cooperation at different levels of economic, political, cultural and defense among Muslims, is emphasized in the Holy Qoran and Hadiths of the Holy Prophet Mohammad (S). Thus, it is an Islamic duty to support such idea. But the only problem before such idea is that some of the Muslim countries are not independent and they may report all secrets of other members to the countries like America and Israel.

Congradulations to the world Muslims on the Unity Week

MULAVI MOHAMMAD ESHAQ MADANI:

Muslims Should Hold Fast to the Divine Connection



Tehran Times Service

Following is the text of the speech of Presidential Advisor for Sunni Affairs, Mulavi Eshaq Madani, delivered at the 6th International Conference on Islamic Unity.

"If we take a positive look at the situation of Muslims in the world, we will realize that it is in a more advantageous position than in the past.

We have witnessed the downfall of the big enemy of Islam in our time--communism--which was once considered the number one enemy of all religions. The fall of communism resulted in some 70 million people joining the Islamic nation and a rise in the number of Muslim countries.

Today, the West has realized that a dearth in religious values and beliefs in its society has created a spiritual vacuum and people suffer from the inability to grasp with reality.

On the other hand, today Muslims around the world have awakened. Wherever there is a majority of Muslims, an uprising that will lead to the revival of Islam is a real possibility.

Today the futility of movements hostile to Islamic teachings is an accepted fact. The victory of the Islamic Revolution in the Islamic Republic confirmed that Islam is capable of ruling a society and that an Islamic political system is capable of achieving a prosperous life for them. The Islamic Revolution of Iran has proven that Islam is not the antithesis of development and civilization.

In the past, through erroneous teachings of the West, Muslims believed that *Ulamas* should not interfere in political affairs. But the Islamic Revolution of Iran, under the leadership of the Late Imam Khomeini and then by Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei, marked the birth of a new epoch proving such teachings to be false.

Today the Islamic nation is heading towards a grand victory which is the revival of Islam and the success of the Islamic nation.

While it is true that the enemies of Islam spare no effort at preventing the people from attaining their goals, it is also a fact that the Islamic nation is capable of confronting enemy plots from all directions through unity.

If Shia and Sunni *Ulamas* join hands in unity, a cohesive and long-lasting cooperation among all Muslims in the world will be forged.

As the Holy Qoran says, Muslims must hold fast to the divine connection. Preserving the divine connection is the basic principle of Islam. It admits of no exception. In other words, it includes all Muslims regardless of sect.

If Muslim *Ulamas* propagate the real Islam to people everywhere and encourage them to hold fast to the divine connection, then the goal of unity for Muslims all over the world will become a reality.

Today there are but a few books which focus on the general principles of Islam. Writers of most religious books have emphasized on the Shia or Sunni schools as the two branches of Islam. This has led to ignorance on the true principle and reality of Islam.

This is not to preclude Shia and Sunni *Ulamas* from writing about their own sects. What I would say is that their top priority should be to emphasize the truth of Islam rather than stress their own interpretations.

Today, the policy that our *Ulamas* pursue widely differs from what they pursued in the past. The ultimate goal of *Ulamas* in the past was to defend the truth of Islam. Whenever they were confronted with differences they preferred to compromise rather than to insist on their own ideas.

Today, it is incumbent upon us to follow the path taken by past *Ulamas* and to give top priority to the true teachings of Islam and not those of the religious sect that we belong.

It is worth emphasizing that unity is attainable by all world Muslims only by holding fast to the divine connection."

History of Prophet Moh[illegible]
A Panacea for Muslim [illegible]

by DR. Kamil Koyejo Oloso

The anniversary of the birth of the Prophet (S) otherwise known as d ul Mawlud, is celebrated by uslims the world over on or ortly after the 12th day of the nar month of Rabiul-Awal, the urth of Islamic Calendar. The casion usually features the nging of the praise of the Prophet d lectures on his life.Just as hristmas was introduced into hristianity long after the exit of sus, Mawludun Nabiy was first lebrated by the Fatimids of gypt in the 11th century CE. onversely, the two festivals of id-ul Fitr and Eid-ul Adha (the sser and greater Beirams spectively), originated from the oran and were observed by the rophet(S), the earliest Muslims ad indeed all Muslims the world ver. Nevertheless, the Mawlud as been recognized in practice by e generality of Muslims as orthy of marking though it ertainly of much less importance an the other two festivals.

The importance of Mawlud culinates in the opportunity it afords Muslims and indeed ankind, to reflect on the life and achings of the Prophet whose irth is commemorated. The oran admonishes thus:

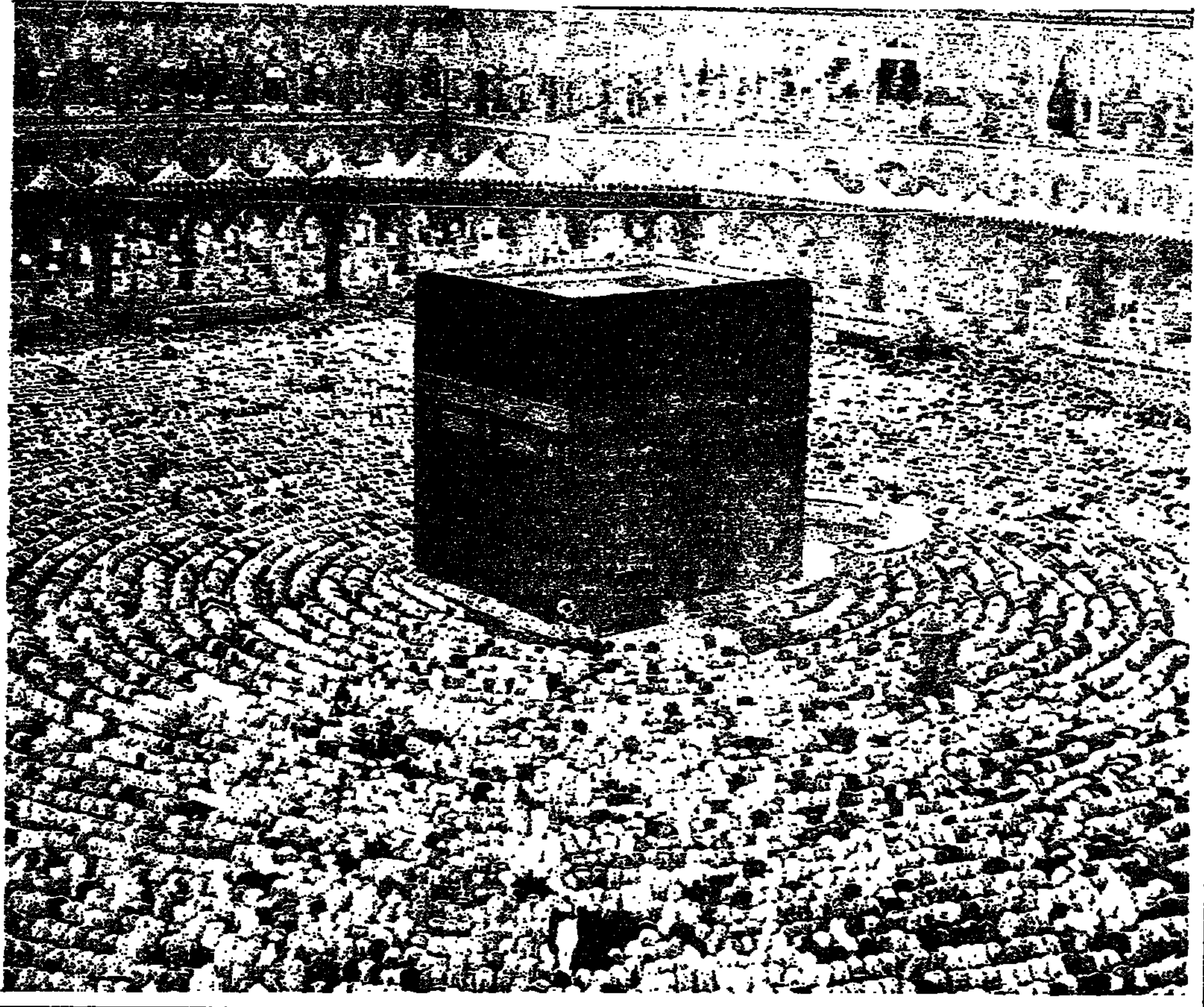
ertainly, you have in the Messnger of Allah (Mohammad) an cellent exemplar for him who pes in Allah and the Last Day d remembers Allah much.

It is in the light of the above that congratulate the organizers of is International Seminar for their sion in creating this unique oprtunity for Muslims the world er to cast retrospective view on e life of the Holy Prophet (S) ith a view to exploiting it for ritual guidance and moral rejunation.

A meaningful Mawlud celebraon must include a self examinaon of ourselves, with a view to nding out the extent to which we ave made the Prophet (S) the mirror" through which we see actors for the emergence of a single Islamic community the world ver.

Muslim solidarity today, stands t the lowest ebb when compared vith what obtained within the Isamic Ummah.

established by the noble rophet Mohammad (S) over foureen hundred years ago. The Musims who constituted a formidable Jmmah and composite virile force nd power that broke Kufr froniers in glory and pride are now ubjected to disgraceful defeat and umiliation. Muslims are now nassacred, robbed of their land nd wealth, of their life and hope. ractically in every country and orner of the Muslim world, the Muslims are being de-Islamized nd forced to convert to Kufr ystems. They remain victims of njustice and aggression and are ilified and denigrated in the comnittee of nations. They are decribed as aggressive, destructive, awless, terrorist, fundamentalist, anatic, archaic and even anachroistic. Muslims are despised by



non-Muslims, whether developed or underdeveloped, capitalist or Marxist, Eastern or Western. Paradoxically too, the Muslim world itself is cancerous as axiomatically shown by its inner strife and division, its turbulence and self-contradictions, its wars and self annihilation.

Although the Muslims count over a billion the world over, their territories are the vastest and the richest, their potential in human and material resources is the greatest and finally, their faith, Islam, is integral, beneficial, world-affirming and realistic, yet, they now suffer all the perdition because they have refused to unite and allow Islamic solidarity to swallow their arrogance and self opinionatedness.

Throughout the Muslim world, except in a few regions, the Muslim community is divided against itself. The colonial powers have successfully fragmented it into component parts set against one another. The boundaries of the Muslim states have been so defined as to create perpetual friction for every state with its neighbours. Political machination by the enemy continually exploits those areas of friction and creates cause for alienation and hostility. Internally, every Muslim nation-state is in turn divided against itself, its population being heterogeneous, and one group being assigned hegemony over the other groups by the colonial masters. No nation-state was given the time and peace, or the resources to integrate its own citizenry so as to make them a single entity; and no two states were allowed to unite so as to constitute a greater whole. To make things still worse, the enemy has imported aliens into the Muslim World in order to guarantee perpetual strife between them and the natives; or converted the natives to a Western Christianity which necessarily implies their estrangement from their Muslim compatriots, or infused into non-Muslim natives a notion of their identity which sets them in conflict with the Muslims. Finally, the enemy has created hostile "foreign" states within the body of the Ummah to divert Muslim energy away from reconstruction and to drain it in futile wars, or to serve as bases should colonialism decide to reoccupy the land for the colonial powers' economic, strategic and political interests. No Muslim state is secure internally; and none is secure externally. Every Muslim government spends the greater part of its resources and energy on securing its own power within, and integrity without — and yet without avail.

Through out the Muslim World, except in a few regions where the enemy had found rulers ready to cooperate, colonial administration has destroyed all political institutions in the land. When the time came for colonial administrations to withdraw, they entrusted the power to the native elites who had already been subjugated and Westernized. But the real power lay only in the military which was destined to grab it at the first opportunity. In the majority of cases, Muslims are ruled by the military because they are devoid of political formations capable of operating the government, or of mobilizing the masses for resistance, or leading them into constructive political action; or more simply, capable of acting in tandem with one another.

On the Economic Front, the Ummah is non-developed and backward. The overwhelming majority of its members every where are illiterate. Their production of goods and services is far below the need which is always satisfied by import of finished goods from the colonial powers. Even in the strategic necessities of life, the staple foods, clothing, energy and hardware, no Muslim state is self-sufficient. Every state would be exposed to famine if the colonial powers wish for any reason to stop their unfair trade with it. Everywhere, colonial interests have been creating consumerist desires and demands for colonialists' products, while the needs of Muslims for productivity, the colonialists seek, and they often succeed, to knock it out of the market.

When some industry is developed with the colonialists' help, it turns out to be one dependent upon colonialist raw materials, or finished components, which they alone supply, thus subjecting the industry to function at their mercy, to subserve their colonialist goals. In most cases, the new Muslim industries are not designed to meet the crucial needs, but those tangential needs created by colonialist intensive advertisement. Muslim agricultural self-sufficiency is their first enemy, since at this stage and for a long time to come, that is the necessary pre-requisite of Muslim resistance to any colonialist scheme. Everywhere, through false promise of better living in the cities, the lure of temporary jobs in speculative building-construction and consumer-goods industry, and exploitation by landlords and tax collectors, Muslim farmers are uprooted from their villages. They migrate to the cities to live in shanty towns dependent upon imported staple foods, and are ready to answer the call of any demagogue.

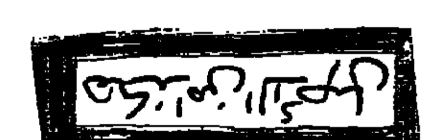
The oil bonanza which Allah found fit to grant to some Muslim countries has proven little of the *ni'mah* or favor it was supposed to be. Found mostly in scarcely populated lands, the new wealth compelled the governments to follow racist lines, to dissipate the wealth in artificial, "cosmetic" development of their lands. Indeed, the new wealth is so abundant that no such pursuits could exhaust it. Hence, it is channeled for "easy and secure" investment in financial markets of the non-Muslim World where it helps the enemies of Islam become stronger. Political instability in every corner of the Muslim World makes long term planning and investment too risky for any careful investor. Thus, Muslim World areas endowed with potential for significant agricultural or industrial development remain devoid of funding capital; and the wealth which could develop these potentialities into actual prosperity for the whole Ummah is channeled elsewhere.

On the Religio-Cultural Front, the centuries of Muslim decay have caused illiteracy, ignorance and superstition to spread among Muslims. These evils have caused the average Muslim to recoil in the bliss of blind faith, to lean toward literalism and legalism or to surrender his spitit to his "shaykh". All this bred into him no small measure of vulnerability. When the modern world impinged itself upon him, his military, political and economic weakness caused him to panic. He therefore sought half-measures of reform which, he thought, would speedily recapture for him his lost ground. Unwittingly, he took to Westernization, lured by the successful example of the West and prompted by his Western or Westernized advisers. In areas under colonial administration, Westernization was ordered and promoted by every possible means at the rulers' disposal.

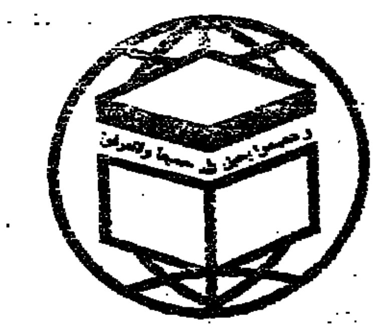
Well meaning or otherwise, Westernized Muslim leaders did not know that their programs would sooner or later undermine the Islamic religion and culture of their subjects. The connection between the manifestations of Western productivity and power and the Western views of God and man, of life, of nature, of the world, of time and history, was too subtle for them to observe; or in their hurry, to mind. A secular system of education was built which taught Western values and methods. Soon, it began to pour into society generations of graduates who were ignorant of their Islamic legacy. Their ignorance combined with suspicion of the guardians of the legacy, namely the ulama, who were well meaning despite their conservatism, leteralism, legalism or mysticism. A gap began to develop within the ranks of the Ummah, dividing it into Westernizing seculars and opponents of secularization. The colonialist powers saw to it that the former became the decision-makers in society.

By the colonialsits directly or by their native stooges, everything Islamic fell under attack. The integrity of the Qoranic text, the genuineness of the Prophet (S), the veracity of his Sunnah, the perfection of the Shariah, the glories of Muslim achievements in culture and civilization — none of them was spared. The purpose was to inject doubt in the Muslim's confidence in himself, in his Ummah, in his faith, to undermine his Islamic consiousness, to subvert his Islamic personality, and thus to make him more subservient, lacking the spiritual stamina necessary for resistance. The colonialists and their stooges filled the Muslim's daily life with effects promoting Western culture, newspapers, books and maga-

(Contd on Pg. 6)



Sirah of Prophet Mohammad (S): A Panacea for Muslim Solidarity



(Contd from Pg. 5)

zines, radio and television, cinema and theater, records and tapes, street posters and nude signs bombarded him daily with such effects. Muslim governments took pride in a new boulevard they opened in their capitals dotted with Western-style high rise office or apartment buildings; but they were not shamed by the squalor and degradation of the whole rest of their towns and villages, Westernized elites frequented public halls to watch or hear a movie, an opera, a concert or a drama, and sons and daughters read about them in books in their secular or missionary schools and colleges, without realizing their incongruity with everything else they thought or did. Those who completed their self-Westernization stood out more oddly against their Muslim environment and background. The integrity of Islamic culture and the unity of the Islamic style of life were shattered in their own persons, in their thought and action, in their homes and families. Western social institutions and customs were introduced with impertinence. Instead of raising themselves from their decay to the heights of virtue and societal efficacy envisaged for them by Islam, Muslim women began to hanker after the manifestations of Western decay: gradual nudity or *tabarruj*, economic independence aimed at individualist licence, egotistic pursuit of pleasure and the avoidance of duties imposed by the extended family.

The way out is to cast retrospective view at the *sirah* of the Holy Prophet Mohammad (S) ruminate deeply over the solid *Ummah* he established, examine throughly the Islamic solidarity entrenched at his instance and avail ourselves the benefit of such solidarity in all its ramifications.

For example, if we look at the pillars of Islam as a whole it will be clear to us that the goal of each of them is to ensure unity, brotherhood, equality, justice and formidable cooperation. Through the doctrine of *Tawhid*, or the Unity of God Prophet Mohammad (S) brought vividly to Muslims the recognition of God as their creator, the Supreme Power, the Sole Enricher and Destroyer of life and that it is only by submitting to Him alone shall man be freed form servility to all other powers. Through *Salat*, or ritual prayer, *Zakat* or the obligatory charity, *Sawm* or fasting and *Hajj* or Holy pilgrimage, the Prophet (S) has succeeded in promoting brotherhood of mankind and human equality. The world which, before the Prophet (S) was divided into innumerable castes and creeds, tribes and nations, some claiming nobility for themselves and condemning others to the position of serfs and chattels was welded together by the cable of Islamic brotherhood and solidarity demonstrated in their common belief in one indivisible God; praying together shoulder to shoulder in the same holy mosque, sharing together proceeds of their individual toils; enduring together pangs of hunger and thirst in their holy month; and clustering together in the same holy dress of *Ihram* during *Hajj* on their holy plain of Arafat.

The Prophet never discriminated among his companions: he appointed Bilal, an Abyssinian slave the Mu'dhdhin, that is, the caller to the Muslim ritual prayers while Salman, the Persian was his chief war adviser. Indeed the Prophet (S) cemented the ties of brotherhood among the Muslims of Madinah who were called *Ansar* and *Muhajirun*, i.e. emigrants from Mecca. The brotherhood was indeed unique in the history of the world. It was a solidarity which hinged on fellow-feeling and love based on absolute fraternity. For example, Sa'd ibn Sabi of the *Ansar* said to his fellow brother, Abdur-Rahman ibn Awf, one of the *Muhajirun*, I am the richest man amongst the *Ansar* I am prepared to share my property half and half with you. I have two wives, I am ready to divorce one, and after the expiry of *Iddah*, you may marry her.

But Abdur-Rahman ibn 'Awf was not prepared to accept anything; neither property nor home. So, he blessed his brother and said: "Kindly direct me to the market so that I may make my fortune with my own hands." The helpers were extremely generous



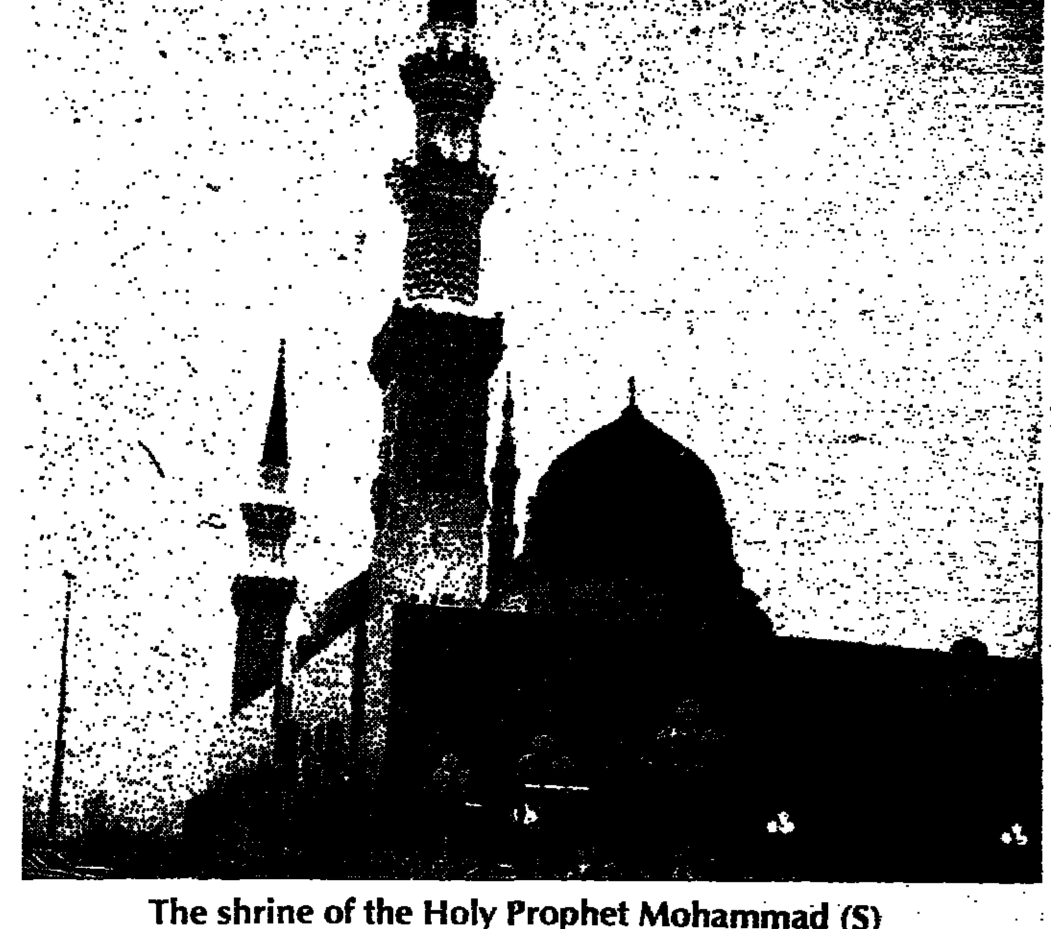
to their brothers-in-faith. They once approached the Holy Prophet with the request that their orchards should be distributed equally between the Muslims of Madinah and their brothers from Makkah. But the Prophet was reluctant to put this heavy burden upon them. It was, however, decided that the refugees would work in the orchards along with the helpers and the yield would be divided equally amongst them.

These are not mere solidarity expressions of the spirit of selflessness which the Holy Prophet had infused in his followers. It was a common trait of their character which they had developed under the influence of Mohammad (S). So strong and cordial was this relation that it surpassed even the relationship of blood. When either of the two persons who had been paired as brothers, passed away, his property was inherited by his brother-in-faith. This practice continued till the following verse was revealed and the regular rule of inheritance was allowed to take its usual course:

And those who believed afterwards and emigrated and strove hard along with you: these also are of you: and the kindred by blood are nearer unto one another in Allah's decree. Verily Allah is of everything the Knower.

The atmosphere of solidarity and feeling created by the Holy Prophet produced very healthy results. Age-long enmities amongst the different tribes, especially those that had existed between the Awf and the Khazraj were almost forgotten amongst the converts from those tribes. "Acceptance of the faith required that as Muslims they should acknowledge not only the spiritual but temporal authority of Mohammad (S) and, holding subordinate every distinction of race and kindered while regarding each other as brothers" The Holy Qor'an refers to this solidarity as a great boon:

And hold ye fast, all of you, to the cord of Allah, and be not disunited, and remember Allah's favor unto you, in that ye were enemies, and He joined your hearts together, and so ye became by His favour brethren, and ye were on the brink of an abyss of the fire, and He rescued you therefrom.



The shrine of the Holy Prophet Mohammad (S)

For Muslim solidarity to be a reality again in our own time both the Arab world and the Ajam world must unite as brothers in faith and partners in progress working in concert and resolute collectively to return to the pristine period of Islam under the leadership and tutelage of the Prophet Mohammad (S). In this regard, the Arab world has roles and responsibilities while the 'Ajam world too has roles and responsibilities.

The Arab world from which the Prophet Mohammad (S) emerged has unlimited wealth and power. It has petrol which is the life stream of industrial and military power. It is a link between Europe and the Far East and is the pulsating heart of the entire Muslim world to which the whole world turns, with ever-lasting affection and devotion, for its religious and spiritual needs. Its significance is also heightened by the possibility of its becoming a theater of a third world war if care is not taken. It has in it the Arabian peninsula which is unique in being the religious and the spiritual nerve-center of the Muslim world, where the annual assemblage of the Muslims of the entire world for *Hajj* has no parallel anywhere. It also has wells that produce almost the greatest quantity of oil in the world.

There is a world of difference between the point of view with which the West look at the Arab world and that with which the Ajam looks at it. Even the way a nationalist Arab regards it is quite different from the way a Muslim from another part of the world, i.e. Ajam does. To the Muslims in general, the Arab world is the cradle of Islam, a refuge for humanity, a tower of light and a veritable potential source of Muslim leadership. The Ajam believes that Mohammad (S), the Prophet of Islam is the soul of the Arab world, the cornerstone of its prestige and the title of its glory. Without Mohammad (S) this land, inspite of its riches and wealth of resources, will be no more than a picture without color or body without spirit. It is Mohammad (S) alone who brought the Arab world into being. For the Arab world to sustain and retain its leadership of the Muslim world, even after the demise of the Prophet (S), it has to cling to and follow to the letter of the Qoran and the Sunnah both of the which legacy the Prophet (S) bequathed to us all as in the spirit of the following diving stipulation:

And obey Allah and His Messenger. and do not dispute (with one another) lest you lose courage and your strenght departs and be patent. Surely Allah is with those who are patient.

The Arab world should once again strive for the golden era of Islam, do exactly what the Prophet (S) did to enhance solidarity, and maximum confidence and co-operation of the Ummah which is composed of the Arab and the Ajam.

Today, there is nothing wrong legally for the Arab world to concede to and even copy from the 'Ajam world what the latter has excelled it in doing. For example, the Islamic Republic of Iran under the able leadership of its dynamic spiritual leader, al-marhum, Ayatollah al-Khomeini has returned the lost glory of the Muslims through an Islamic Revolution which held spell bound the enemies of Islam the world over. This is a feat that has shamed the West and its allies and which is second only to the victory of the noble Prophet Mohammad (S). It therefore behooves the Arab world to cooperate fully with the leader of the 'Ajam world which the Islamic Republic of Iran is and make such cooperation the springboard for the type of the universal solidarity which the *sirah* of the Prophet (S) symbolizes.

'Uthman, this key is yours, take it. This is the day of recompense for obligations and pledges fulfilled. This key will remain with you for ever nobody can take it from you unless he takes it unjustly with a cruel hand.

The above also epitomizes by implication the vesting of the administration of the holy mosques of Makkah and Madinah in the rulers of Saudi-Arabia. The best other Muslims could do is to cooperate and assist them in this onerous religious task to the glory of the Muslims the world over. If the Arabs hesitated to accept leadership of the Muslim Ummah and feared to shoulder its great responsibilities, the darkness and ignorance of contemporary life would not diminish. And to avert this, let there be an Islamic Solidarity of the Arab and the Ajam on the principle of: *Help you one another in righteousness and piety but do not help one another in sin and transgression and fear Allah. Verilly Allah is severe in punishment.*

Once again, I thank Allah, *subhanahu wata'ala* for this wonderful opportunity and beseach Him to forgive me my trespasses and reward you all for your patience and tolerance. May He continue to make the Prophet Mohammad (S) our model of conduct and bless his soul, that of his household and all who follow his guidance perpetually till the day of judgement.

As-Salamu Alaykum wa Rahmatullah.

Congradulations to the world Muslims on the Unity Week

Unity Among Muslims



Thousands of Muslim worshipers perform the Friday prayer at the entrance of the Al Aqsa Mosque in Bait-ul-Moqaddas.

(Contd from Pg. 7)

UNITY...

solve man's problems. They just create problems for the world of Islam. The renowned philosopher and poet, Iqbal Lahori says, "The world powers are like thieves looking for the graveyards to steal shroud." Here he refers to oppressed nations as dead.

I have a suggestion and hope Shia and Sunni scholars would think about it. The obstacles which hinder a dynamic Sunni-Shia unity are of two kinds: some are related to ulema and some to the public.

Muslim uelma should discuss doctrinal problems among themselves and decide about the solutions. When the sects and schools decide to compromise, this is not an easy task. Until recently, the followers of various sects did not even think of unity. Different schools have differences on minor issues. We should make preparations to compromise on minor issues. After we reach a compromise, we should try to convince the public to follow the ulema.

The reason we have thought of the unity among Islamic schools of thought is that we want to achieve our goal as soon as possible. The world of Islam needs unity among its schools of thought. All Muslims belonging to all Islamic schools of thought should coordinate their stands among themselves.

The world of Islam today needs unity among Muslims in order to take care of their interests. Our unity should not be limited to mosques and theology schools, it should bypass geographical boundaries. Islamic countries suffer from political, economic, social and cultural problems. If the Islamic countries and Islamic leaders get untied, we will recover our past glory.

Congratulation to the world Muslims on the auspicious birth anniversary of the Holy Prophet Mohammad (S)

(Contd from Pg. 2)

MUSLIM ULEMA...

tives scattered abroad are the main obstacles hindering materialization of Muslim unity.

He further called on the people not to bruise the feelings of others who believe in other sects and not to provoke others in this regard.

"When in Medina, the Holy Prophet Hazrat Mohammad (S) destroyed a mosque which was a source of discord among Muslims," he reminded.

(Contd from Pg. 1)

MINIMUM...

ence can bring about is to unite different parties and forces together to boost cooperation among themselves. The unity conferences is a good venue for exchanging ideas and hammering out differences and removing tensions among the Muslims.

What Muslims need today is restoring their real power, the president stressed in his speech.

Commonailties among Muslims can be a good point from which they can embark on their stride towards unity. Muslim nations, Islamic schools of thought and Islamic governments have certain Commonalties and those who want to cooperate with each other should emphasis and work on the common aspects, President Rafsanjani added.

Muslims should stress on their common aspects for setting out short-term, long-term regional and universal goals, he said, calling the conference to set out a working group to find out vulnerable points and pin point certain goals on which the Muslim countries can cooperate.

He further stressed that the task is a technical one which requires psychological and sociological knowledge.

The President said that the Muslims should take lessons from the history highlighting common points and shunning differences.

Whenever they get united they find their real glory and as they disunite they lose their strength, President Rafsanjani noted.

The president warned against absolutism and urged the Muslims to follow up the commonalties and avoid discord.

He urged the conference to formulate certain principles and set up executive and supervisory commissions to monitor the work on unity.

The enemies of Islam are bent on to prevent materialization of unity among the Muslim ummah, of course it is not possible for more than 50 Muslim countries with 1.2 billion population to act as a united entity in the short-term, President Rafsanjani said.

However, we can focus and emphasis on our basic issues within a limited area, he added.

Today telecommunications development has on the one hand paved the way for unity and on the other has been abused to further discord among different nations, he stated.

Prevailing situation on the Muslim world is an indication of social immaturity among Muslims. For instance, the Palestinian plight is an indication of disunity and immaturity among Muslims.

Undoubtedly the potential power of the Muslims is much more than the factual one.

The existence of an entity like the Zionist regime at the heart of the Muslim world is a clear threat to the interests of Muslims, requiring due attention to liberation of Palestine, President Rafsanjani stated.

It is a basic problem for Muslims to have no consensus on such an important issue, he said, adding even the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) lacks such a consensus and that due to the members' selfish motives great part of their resources is plundered by outsiders.

He underlined the need for the Muslim countries to be realistic in their day to day life. For instance, the plight of Bosnia-Herzegovina is a good field on which Muslim countries can have close cooperation, he underlined.

Today, the Muslim world is confronting Western imperialism which is out to tarnish its image through accusing Muslims of terrorism and kidnapping.

Through attributing terrorism to Muslims, the arrogant powers try to undermine the strength of the Muslims.

The enemy has found out that there are common ideas among different Muslim countries like Algeria, Egypt, Palestine, Lebanon, Syria, Iran and Pakistan wherein there is a belief in the sovereignty of Islam. Thus, they try to weaken the idea. Muslims should prevent materialization of the enemies' plots through their awareness and vigilance, the president concluded.

(Contd from Pg. 1)

MUSLIMS...

becoming more alert.

For centuries, the arrogant powers and the enemies of Islam had kept Muslims backward. *There is no doubt today that Muslims are moving toward restoration of their dignity, the enemy is out to attack them, the Leader said.*

He warned against discord among Muslims and said that the enemy is determined to fan the flares of tension and dispute among different Muslim sects, school of thoughts and nationalities.

Wherever Muslims are living, the enemy is present working for sowing discord among them, he underlined.

Our main objective is to restore unity among different Muslim groups and sects. Muslims should vigilantly identify those who sow discord among them through exaggeration of differences and disputes.

The move toward unity will bring its fruits if Muslims act vigilantly and restore their dignity and self-esteem, the Leader felt confidence.

We do not want other sects to give up their particular idea or follow the teachings of other sects, he said adding, we say that commonalties among Muslims are much more than their differences and they should work together to remove misunderstandings, the Leader said.

When our enemies stress on the differences we should emphasize on our common beliefs to prevent the enemies from exerting pressure on us. The enemy has not stopped its activities for creating discord among Muslims.

Muslims, Sunnis and Shias, should be careful and make their utmost to bring different Islamic sects closer to each other.

The richest culture of the world from the very beginning belonged to the Muslims, he said calling on Muslims to shun differences.

Muslims should know that if they get united they will form an Islamic bloc against the enemies, the Leader concluded.

(Contd from Pg. 3)

IMAM...

According to Imam Khomeini, unity was not limited to a nation but it has infra-national dimensions. He believed that all the oppressed of the world should get united against the oppressors. All Muslim countries should get united against the enemies of Islam, Shias should get united with the Sunis, all Islamic sects should get united within the framework of Islam and the nations should get united with their governments while safeguarding Islamic principles and values.

On national unity Imam Khomeini was of the opinion that unity should be considered by all strata as the first step towards victory. He constantly emphasized on the unity between universities and seminaries as the vanguards of awareness in the society.

According to Imam Khomeini the following are the prerequisites for unity:

* Self-purification and adopting spiritual values for self and the near ones.

* Tolerance, defending freedom of thought, supporting political, cultural groups that have a firm belief in the fundamental principles of Islamic society.

* Belief in the miraculous role of unity in settling intricate political, social problems.

* Awareness of the role of hypocrites and temptation of the advocates of disunity.

* *Commitment to principled stands and defending rational dogmas and values while giving due weight to comprehensive unity.*

* *Taking into account the basic differences between the research methodologies in universities and seminaries in order to find a common language for both in understanding the problems of the society.*

* *Finding out commonalities and shunning differences in basic principles through scientific discussion and debate.*

* Revitalization of monotheistic culture and unity in Islamic societies as well as the symbols and factors of unity, for most of Islamic principles are based on this philosophy. Some of the examples include Hajj, Friday Prayer, Cooperation for helping the Muslims, Injunction of Good and Prohibition of Evil and so on.

* Teaching the Muslims of the past Islamic civilization and the reasons for the collapse of Islamic civilization over the recent centuries.

* Efforts to spread Islamic cultural values the basis of self-confidence and rejection of West-toxication.

* Fighting superstition and removing factors that have entered our religion but create disunity among Muslims.

* Attempts to bring about unity among the words and deeds of the advocates of unity among Muslims. It entails coordination among the advocates of unity in their policies so as to win the support of the masses for a policy even if that policy is against their values.

In practice Imam Khomeini defended the right of the Palestinian Muslims as a focal point of unity among Muslims in their struggle against U.S.-Israeli expansionism. Imam Khomeini demonstrated sacred love of all Muslims to Prophet Mohammad (S) in his decree on the *Satanic Verses* of apostate Salman Rushdie. The event was converted to a scene for unity among Muslims against the enemies. It also created awareness among Muslims throughout the world.

The Islamic Revolution and its achievements have no place for any Muslim to forward any excuse. The achievements of the Islamic Revolution and the Islamic movements in other parts of world bring to home to every Muslim that a few pure Muslim can defeat a large number of non-Muslims.

The Late Imam Khomeini in critical stages of the struggle taught us that the number and the material calculations are not determining factors in struggle between the right and the wrong.

If Muslims have realized that the only remedy to problems and removal of backwardness is return to Islamic identity, we should not worry about our future.

Let us become the harbingers of this holy jihad. This is painful to see that the followers of the Prophet Mohammad (S) with a great population and rich resources plus an exceptional situation should suffer from disunity and that the enemies enjoy over our agony. The Muslim ummah has been the standard-bearer of civilization while today others plunder our resources and make mockery of us.

Today the book of Allah without a slightest commission or omission is available to all Muslims, the Sunna and teachings of the Holy Prophet (S) are our torch and guidance.

The Qibla, single motto, prayer, and hundreds of Islamic rites are common to all Muslims. These factors can become the pivots of unity for setting up an exemplary united Ummah. People are not to blame for the lack of unity among Ummah. The intellectuals, ulema and rulers of Islamic countries should perform their duties and undertake their mission at this critical juncture in the history of Islam.

This is a blunder of some of the Muslim rulers that they sign pacts with the enemies of Islam instead of winning the support of the masses and other Muslim countries. History is an eloquent witness to the fact that such rulers will face deadlock ultimately.

The U.S. and Israel will not be satisfied unless they raise Islamic countries to the ground. Instead of relying on such shaky pacts, which remain valid so long as they protect the interests of the usurpers, Muslim countries should rely on Islamic covenants with their brethren. Let us revive the memory of united ummah.

Governments, publishers and film producers that advocate disunity among the Ummah for safeguarding their sectarian interests are seriously mistaken. The enemy will not spare any Muslim sect.

The Islamic Republic of Iran extends its hands of unity towards any government or nation that gives priority to the interests of the Muslims over those of the enemies of Islam.

(Contd from Pg. 1)

LATE IMAM...

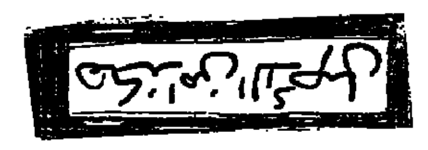
the Holy Qoran. Shake hands in friendship with your fellow believers in any country and from any race, for the great Islamic faith has called all of us "brothers." If, by the grace of God, this spirit of brotherhood-in-the-faith becomes a part of each of us we will one day wake up to see that Muslims are the world's greatest power. God willing, this brotherhood may become a reality soon.

Those who want to widen the gap between Shias and Sunnis are neither. They don't even have anything to do with Islam. A true believer in Islam will not aggravate differences at a time when unity is essential to victory. Big powers know that Muslim unity and brotherhood is a big obstacle in the realization of their plots. For this reason, they work hard at sowing discord among Muslims.

You should remind Islamic nations that we are all brothers and will always be. Our interest is their interest. We should defend Islam and the Qoran. Tell them any difference that is exaggerated will work to the interest of the enemies of Islam—more importantly the United States.

Do not listen to mischief mongers. Anybody who causes discord among Muslims inspires enemies and defeats the cause of Islam.

We are not saying Sunnis should convert to Shia or vice-versa. The message behind Unity Week is that Muslims everywhere should unite and solve their differences.



Muslims' Independence Will Materialize Through Unity

Tehran Times Service

The Following is the text of an interview held in 1991 between the Tehran Times and the Secretary General of the World Assembly for Proximity of Islamic Sects, Hojjatoleslam Vaez-Zadeh Khorasani.

Unity of the Islamic Ummah has its roots in the basic principles of Islam.

TEHRAN — "Islam recommends all Muslims to safeguard their independence and the independence will be materialized through unity of the Islamic Ummah," Secretary General of the World Assembly for Proximity of Islamic Sects, Hojjatoleslam Vaez-Zadeh Khorasani told the *Tehran Times*.

He underlined that the unity of the Islamic Ummah has its roots in the basic principles of Islam, in which the majority of the Muslims believe.

The differences among Muslims in the past severely undermined the Islamic unity and paved the way for the domination-seeking powers to secure their footholds in the Islamic countries, he said.

Calling the Islamic Revolution an epoch-making event, the hojjatoleslam added that, following the victory of the Islamic Revolution, Iran achieved political independence and demonstrated its ability to achieve economic self-reliance as well.

Religious intellectuals should guide their fellow Muslims in the path of the Holy Prophet Mohammad (S) and his Infallible Household (AS).

Expressing regret over differences among Muslims, he outlined foreign and domestic factors hampering materialization of unity among Muslims. He underscored that sectarian fanaticism of some Muslims is one of the key factors in this regard. "No religious leader has advised his followers to defend their standpoints through prejudice and hostility," he added.

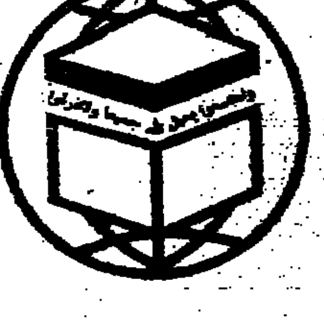
Meanwhile, he stressed, lack of awareness and sufficient information about other religious sects have also created some obstacles to achieving Islamic unity.

Conflicting policies adopted by the former rulers in the world of Islam as well as establishment of rival dynasties in the past centuries were also among other obstacles in the way of Islamic unity.



VAEZ-ZADEH





He viewed racism as another factor which creates rifts among Muslims. The hojjatoleslam said that some foreign powers seek to create discord among Muslims by bringing up racial issues.

Asked to comment on the objectives of the assembly, Khorasani said that the ultimate goals sought by the Assembly are to eliminate misunderstandings and differences among several Islamic sects, to prepare the groundwork for further cooperation among religious leaders and, finally, to create a political-cultural unity among Muslims.

Muslims should not prefer their sectarian interests to the interests of Islam in order to safeguard their religion.

He concluded by saying that Muslims should not prefer their sectarian interests to the interests of Islam in order to safeguard their religion.

Meanwhile, he called on religious intellectuals to enhance their knowledge of different religious sects and guide their fellow Muslims in the path of the Holy Prophet Mohammad (S) and his Infallible Household (AS).

Islamic Unity From the View of Shaikh Shaltut

Tehran Times Service

THE main characteristic of a praiseworthy society, according to Islamic doctrine, lies in the unity of its members. The first evidence of this found in the Islamic literature is observed in the prayers of the noble grandfathers of Moslems, Hazrat Ebrahim (Abraham) and Ismail (Samuel) when they were erecting the walls of the holy shrine, Ka'aba, in Mecca.

The Holy Qoran relates that this noble father and son prayed to Allah by saying: "O God, let us be among those who are Moslems (submitted to Your Will) and let us have progeny who also surrender (to You alone)." They thus asked that their Lord to grant them an opportunity to wholly submit to the divine commandments so that they would never tread the path of worldly desires. They also prayed to Allah that He place their offspring among the faithful (those who have submitted to God's Will). This sets forth the main characteristic of the Moslam Ummah: a nation surrendered to Allah and His divine rules. All those who claim to follow the path of the Prophet Ibrahim should then base their society and social relations on "submission to God's Will". Unity around the axis of Islam is the cornerstone of an Islamic society. It is such a characteristic, namely faith in God, that paves the way for the individual and society toward development and edification. This faith will stimulate them to follow a path of a decent and honorable life, avoiding the misery and wretchedness of corruption and sin. The individuals in such a society will then cooperate fully with one another in performing decent acts and are compassionate toward one another.

The very foundation of society in Islam is, therefore, resting on the unity of people in faith and action and this, as discussed above, can be easily deduced from the prayers of Hazrat Ibrahim as he was laying the fundamentals of a faithful community.

When man had assumed a high degree of intellect and his understanding had developed, enabling him to embrace an exhaustive school of thought, God, the Almighty, sent him the ultimate, sublime and the most complete of the Divine religions, Islam, through the Holy Prophet and revealed to man as many verses and commandments as possible for guidance. This religion then became a negation of racial and national boundaries that many human communities had chosen as the base for their social organizations.

Doing away with all sources of dispersion, difference, rivalry and enmity, Islam drew the attention of its followers to a sublime doctrine that overshadows all such prejudices and causes of separation. In Islam it is only piety that becomes the ultimate objective of man. Thus the main motto of this divine religion is worship of God and submission to His Will alone. The unity of all human races and their unity in thinking and worship is a natural outcome of the belief in Islamic teachings. Islam has called on its followers "to avoid trespassing the bounds of God and be aware that He created you of one origin". It further calls on the faithful to submit to the verses of God (revealed in the Qoran) and stresses that those who do surrender to God's commandments will never be stricken with fear and grief. This sets forth the basis of unity for human beings. According to the Qoran we will be able to prevent deviation, origins of regret, sadness and fear only if we stick to the divine code of piety. At the same time while drawing the people's attention to unity, the Holy Qoran warns them against all causes of disunity and separation and prohibits the faithful from "choosing freinds from among non-Moslems". It says sternly that Moslems should not look for friends among the non-believers because the latter will miss no chance to harm them and wish to bring affliction upon Moslems.

"Do not take friends" says the Holy Book of Islam, "from among those who have no faith in the truth that has been revealed to you," adding that all those who befriend non-believers are to be considered belonging among them.

A glance at Islamic history reveals that great afflictions have befallen the Moslems only when they have turned their backs on these divine teachings and shown a tendency to make friends with non-believers, thus becoming divided among themselves. In contemporary history also Moslems have lost their resources to foreigners and have become dispersed, to the effect that they have endured a humiliating state imposed on them by the enemies of Islam. It is quite regrettable that the Moslems are now leading a life in which there seems to be no basis of unity and no ideals to unite them. And this resuts from an out-right negligence of the divine path to unity, that is, the faith in Islam.

It is now time to reclaim our own identity, our Moslem identity shaped by our unity in an Islamic community. The Qoran has urged the Moslems to "hold on fast to the rope of God and never become dispersed." Thisis the base of the divine revelations. The "Rope of God" is certainly the Holy Book revealed to the Prophet to prevent people from falling into the pitfalls of corruption and sin. Corruption and sin prevent people from performing their obligations as the "vice-gerents of God" on earth. One's faith is accepted by God only when one avoids surrendering to lust and worldly desires and any desires motivated by sectarian prejudices that promote disunity. Such prejudices will ultimately cause deviation from God's path and will lead people to where they will easily fall prey to the plots of enemies. When Moslems become divided, their enemies unite against them and will ultimately gnaw at the very roots of the Islamic community.

The Moslems should make all possible efforts to unite and for this they need to do away with any and all non-Islamic beliefs that have been introduced into their faith by hereditary and distorting means.

Islam is the religion of unity: unity in faith, action and code of living. This can be easily deduced from a review of the Holy Book, the Qoran. All the affliction that has befallen us today is but a result of a mental deviation caused by the misunderstanding of religious principles.

It is then obligatory and the duty of us all, especially the religious scholars, to purge the religion of God of any trend of thought and practice that is incompatible with the Islamic code.

Efforts should be taken to introduce the truths of Islam in their purity and discard the unIslamic issues that have permeated it, so that all we say, write and do be in accord with the Islamic doctrine: The ultimate outcome of this will be the curing of the ills of the Moslem community which have befallen it at present.

One of the most important things that should be carefully examined is the formation of a sound economic policy that can meet the demands of Moslems through relationships with Moslems themselves. Such a healthy economic organization, based on Islamic unity, will be able to block the exploitative powers from seeking foot-holds in Islamic lands under the pretext of economic development. Once united, the Moslems should also, aside from the establishment of a joint economic corporation, undertake efforts for the formation of a well-equipped military force under a joint command. Such a military power would of course be dedicated to the repulsion of the aggressions of Islam's enemies and the liberation of the oppressed from the clutches of the exploitative powers. This immense force, which will have the support of the all the faithful, will then serve as the best means of achieving peace and security and, as the Holy Qoran puts it, will able to "frighten the enemies of God."

The aforementioned joint efforts and other similar steps will set up the framework of social unity among the world's Moslems. It is quite regrettable that the colonial powers are continuing their plots, amidst the indifference of Moslems, to prevent any such unity among them. Still one can cherish hopes for a better future for those around the globe whose hearts are beating for freedom and those who are prepared to sacrifice for their sublime goals.

Unity Among Muslims

By Mulavi Nazir Ahmad Salami

Tehran Times Service

"Unity" is a favorite term used by human societies. Everyone is aware of the conditions that prevail in the world of Islam and Muslims in particular. There is no need now to speak of the sufferings of Muslims.

But if Muslim nations were united against the enemies of Islam, perhaps there would be no suffering Muslims. The advantage of the so-called "superpowers" over Muslims is only the unity which they have. Christianity has the biggest following in the world followed by Islam with its 1,200,000,000 followers. If we study the rise in strategic importance of Islamic nations we will realize that Islamic nations are joined one after the another like the rings of a chain. Muslims nations from Indonesia to Morocco are all joined like the rings of a chain.

The most widely-read English monthly, the *Readers Digest*, in an article on the importance of the economic resources of Islamic nations wrote, "Islamic lands are equal to oil which is the life-blood of modern civilization."

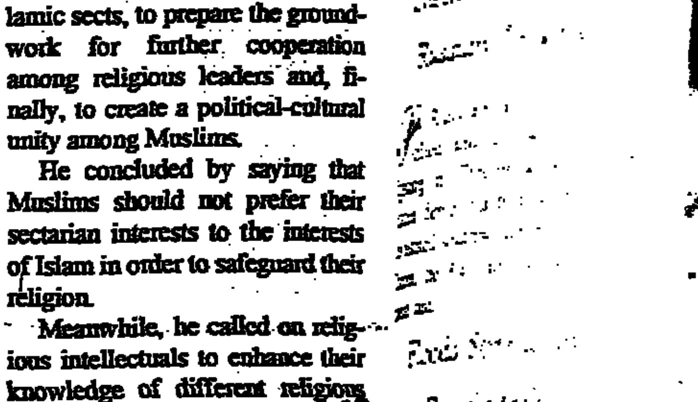
It is obvious that none of the powers who try to decide our fate is better than us. They are only trying to sow discord among Muslims in order to divide them and rule over them. If we were only united and took the same stance towards the problems of the world of Islam, problems that lead to crises would have no ground to exist and conditions would have been better than they are today.

The point which Imam Khomeini was driving at is the unity of the Islamic world. The unity of word is the motto of Islam and Qoran. The holy Qoran states: .... hold fast to divine rope.

Every man of thought and understanding knows that world powers have not been able to

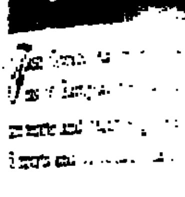
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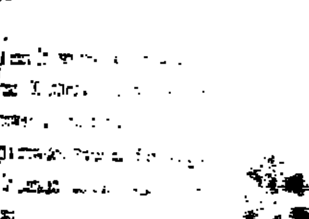


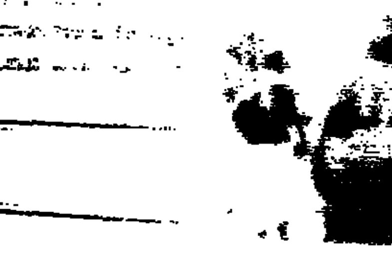


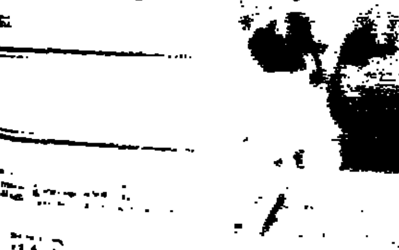


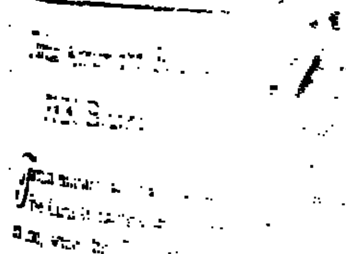


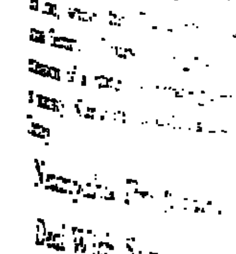






















TEHRAN TIMES

Tehran Times Weekend Issue

THURSDAY, AUGUST 1 1996; MORDAD 11, 1375; RABIUL-AWAL 15, 1417

Iran Spectrum



A Glance at National Events

The World This Week

WORLD NEWS

Wednesday July 24

Chechens Kill Six Russian Troops

Six Russian soldiers were killed and 23 wounded in fighting in Chechnya which included fierce clashes around the devastated southwestern village of Bamut, the Russian military command said.

Floods Spread in Bangladesh



Flash floods have hit new areas of Bangladesh killing 11 more people and pushing the toll to 50, reports and officials said.

25 Killed in Train Blast

At least 25 people were killed and 100 others injured when two powerful bombs ripped through a crowded train at the edge of the Sri Lankan capital, state run radio said.

Thursday July 25

Turkish Aircraft Raid PKK Bases

Turkish military aircraft raided five Kurdish camps in northern Iraq, while the Turkish National Security Council urged the extension of a state of emergency in mainly Kurdish southeastern Turkey.

Netanyahu Proposes Deal With Syria on Lebanon



Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahau met with U.S. envoy Dennis Ross on Thursday and proposed that a deal could be reached with Syria on the withdrawal of Israeli troops from Southern Lebanon.

Friday July 26

Sri Lanka Launches Major Offensive Against Tamil Tigers



Sri Lanka launched a major military offensive against Tamil Tiger separatists, after declaring an indefinite curfew in a sprawling rebel-held zone in the north of the country, officials said.

Arafat and Assad Pledge Greater Cooperation

Palestinian President Yasser Arafat ended a landmark visit to Syria after vowing in talks here to work with Damascus for Middle East peace.

Israel Seals Off Territories Totally



Israel clamped a total blockade on the West Bank and Gaza Strip after suspected Palestinian activists shot dead an Israeli man and his daughter-in-law and wounded his son, the army announced.

Saturday July 27

World Leaders Condemn Olympic Bomb Blast

World leaders sent messages of outrage and sorrow to President Bill Clinton, after a bomb at the Olympic games in Atlanta overnight left two people dead and more than 100 injured. German Chancellor Helmut Kohl said: "This cowardly attack carried out with contempt for human life will bring indignation from all civilized people. We must not give in and we will not give in to hatred and violence."

Dhaka Surrounded by Flood Waters



Flood waters surrounded Bangladesh's capital Dhaka, forcing residents to seek safety as the rising nationwide death toll from flooding promoted accusations that the government has underestimated the disaster.

Petrov Snatches World Record in Snatch



World champion Aleksey Petrov of Russia set a snatch world record of 187.5kg in the 91kg division of the Olympic weightlifting competition on Saturday. He beat his own world mark of 186kg to take the lead with the clean and jerk section to follow.

Sunday July 28

Bomb in Cargo Hold Brought Down TWA Jet

A bomb in the front cargo hold of TWA Flight 800 ripped the front off the Jumbo Jet causing it to crash into the Atlantic killing all 230 people aboard, CNN television reported.



Buyoya Pledges to Form Transition Government



Burundi's new leader Pierre Buyoya, who seized power in an army-backed coup, said he would form a transition government by the end of the week. It will be "a broadbased government of national unity" led by a prime minister, added the Tutsi leader who ousted Hutu president Sylvestre Ntibantunganya last Thursday.

Jakarta Tense But Calm After Riots

Hundreds of armed soldiers and police imposed a security clampdown on Jakarta after two people were killed in the worst riots in over 20 years, triggered when police stormed an opposition party's headquarters. Indonesia's President Suharto meanwhile issued a call for national unity.

Monday July 29

Rebels Kill 2 More Commandos in Sri Lanka



Tamil Tiger guerrillas ambushed an army patrol in northern Sri Lanka, killing two commandos as government forces prepared for a fresh offensive against the rebels, officials said.

18 Prisoners in Critical Condition

Eighteen leftist prisoners were still in a critical condition a day after their 69-day hunger strike ended, Turkey's press reported.

Tuesday July 30

World Powers Vow Tough Anti-Terrorist Action at Paris Summit

World powers gathering in Paris for a summit on terrorism were expected to come up with a tough plan of action to highlight their determination to fight indiscriminate violence.

Bomb Hero Under Investigation in Atlanta

The security guard who said he discovered the Olympic bomb and saved scores of lives found himself the main suspect. Richard Jewell, a 33-year-old former police officer, denied he had placed the bomb in the centennial Olympic Park that left two dead and 112 injured.



Bomb in Cafe in Algiers Suburb

A bomb ripped through a busy cafe in west Algiers, close to the national security headquarters, and left several people injured, witnesses said.

LOCAL NEWS

Wednesday July 24

Iran-Sierra Leon Parliamentary Ties Discussed

Vice-Speaker of the Majlis, Hojjatoleslam Hassan Ruhani called for expansion of Iran-Sierra Leon cooperation in all domains especially in parliamentary affairs.

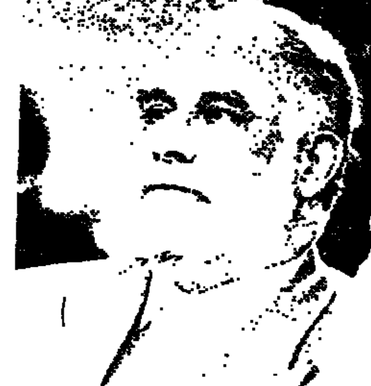
Message of Qatari Emir Conveyed to President Rafsanjani



President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani received the Qatari foreign minister, before leaving Tehran for Doha, Sheikh Hamad bin Jasem al-Thani, who conveyed a message from Emir of Qatar.

Thursday July 25

Habibi Arrives in Sarajevo



Heading a political and economic delegation, the First Vice-President Hassan Habibi, arrived in Sarajevo, Bosnia to take part in the first meeting of Iran-Bosnia joint committee.

Friday July 26

China Raises $27m to Fund Exports to Iran

A Chinese banking syndicate has raised a $270 million loan to support Chinese exports for a subway construction project in Iran, the *China Daily* reported.

U.S. Congress Dicision Unlawful

Internationally accepted rules will not allow the U.S to dictate its will to independent countries, substitute Friday prayer leader, Ayatollah Mohammad Yazdi, stressed.

Saturday July 27

Iran, Bosnia Ink 7-Point MOU

A 7-point memorandum of understanding was inked between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina for boosting economic, cultural and educational cooperation. Iran's First Vice-President Hassan Habibi and Bosnia's Prime Minister Hassan Muratovic signed the letter of understanding.

Iran Holds Cultural Exhibition in Syria

Iran's cultural exhibition was inaugurated in Edleb, northern Syria, on the eve of the Unity Week marking the birth anniversary celebration of Prophet Mohammad (S).

Sunday July 28

2nd Meeting of AFFAR opens

ASIAN FOUNDATION FOR FUSION RESEARCH

The second meeting of the Asian Foundation for Fusion Research (AFFAR) started work here at the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI) with the participation of researchers in the field.

Monday July 29

IRGC Ends Operations Against Outlaws, Bandits

At least 20 senior members of the outlawed Kurdish Democratic Party of Iran (KDP) have been killed in the operations launched by the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) to suppress anti-revolutionaries and bandits in western border regions.

Tuesday July 30

Foreign Minister Velayati Left for Geneva

Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati heading a political delegation left for Geneva Tuesday to take part in the meeting of the foreign ministers of the Contact Group of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC).

'Fat? No, It's My Genes'

Fat is on the move. According to the latest report from the Department of Health, 13 percent of British men and 16 percent of women are obese. Not good, certainly, but surely not as bad as in those pre-leisure revolution days, when we were all so much less health-conscious and calorie-aware?

Wrong. Back in 1980, when people barely knew one end of an exercise bike from the other, obesity figures were half those of today - six percent for men, seven for women.

The fat fact is, there has been a weight explosion in the past 15 years - matched, ironically, by a boom in spending on slimming products, currently at ???70 million a year, compared with just ???35 million in 1990.

When it comes to being merely overweight, the figures are even more frightening. According to a report entitled *Obesity*, one in three of us heavier than is medically safe.

Genetic researches are now on the track of a gene that governs a weight-reducing hormone, and food laboratories have almost perfected a "fat substitute" that passes clean through the body. Yet amid all this understanding, we still fail spectacularly to match our slender aspirations. So what has gone wrong? "Simple," says Maritn Wiseman, head of the Department of Health's nutrition unit. "We're eating more then we need." He's emphatically clear on this pont: there's no suggestion that fat might be due to something outside our control. "The rumor that there's a glandular element in fat is quite false. In 99.99 prevent of cases, fatness is due to people eating more than their bodies use up. Many fat people say they don't eat much. They complain that they go on diets but never manage to lose weight. Yet the reality is that even though they may eat small meals, they snack a lot. When we put those same people in a special metabolic ward and control their diet to, say, 1000 calories a day, they reliably and perceptibly lose weight."

So to lose weight, all you have to do is eat less, right? Er...almost: it's a start, but not the whole answer. For although as a nation we are getting fatter, the confusing thing is that we're also eating less and less.

Our average intake today is much lower (1,990 calories per day) than in the pork-pie-and-chips days of 1950, when the figure was as high as 2,500.

Exercise — The Gentle Persuader Against Flab

But although we eat less than we did 45 years ago, cars and sedentary jobs mean we take less exercise. It's this imbalance between calories swallowed and calories burnt off that makes us pole on the pounds.

Despite the TV-advert rumor that we all lead tennis-and-aerobics lifestyles, the reality is different. An Allied Dunbar/Sports Council national fitness survey in 1993 found that 70 percent of men and 80 percent of women took less exercise than was appropriate for their age.

Not that this means pumping iron in a gym or swimming 40 lengths before breakfast. More and more, the medical profession is recommending simple, everyday forms of exertion - like taking the stairs instead of the lift, and traveling somewhere on foot instead of by car. The idea now is to make exercise an integral part of the day, rather than a pre-booked leisure activity. And continuing in this vein, a report published last year by the Royal Society of Health, entitled *Take A Walk*, extolled the virtue of brisk strolls rather than team sports in the fight to keep back the tide of fat.

Even the smallest adjustment in the energy-in/energy-out balance can have significant effects on weight. For example, a four percent shift in the amount of food you eat can mean eight pounds more or less round the midriff in a year.

Different Strokes

However, as the *Obesity* report makes clear, everybody has a different metabolic rate: some people need more exercise than others to burn off the same amount of food. And how does one find out one's own personal metabolic rate? "It's virtually impossible for any individual to know their own energy requirements with any degree of accuracy," the report concludes.



Albert Pernitsch, the heaviest man in the world, weighs 62½ stone. He is reputed to have downed eight litres of wine and 14 chickens in one sitting

Cherie Martin the author of *Naturally Slim* (Doubleday, ???6.99) and a virulent critic of diets, claims that only two percent of dieters ever achieve lasting weight loss. "I tried so many diets," she says. "Each time I put back what I had lost plus a few extra pounds. The problem is, when we go on a diet, we forget how to eat normally and naturally — in other words, when we are hungry."

Some people are rebelling against the dictates of dietary regimes completely and deciding to be not only fat but proud of it. In America, the national Association to Advance Fat Acceptance is campaigning to make it illegal for anyone to be discriminated against on account of size - and that includes having to buy two seats on aeroplanes. But for most it's not so much a matter of embracing their fat as attacking it from all sides. Or paying someone else to attack it. At Guy's Nuffield House, a 46-bed private London clinic, you can have an abdominoplasty (fat removed from your stomach) for ???3000. Or, for between ???1,400 and ????2,900, you can undergo a course of liposuction - in which fat is hoovered out of your hips, thighs, buttocks, knees, ankles and chin.

All the time, researches are trying to find out more about fat. At the Howard Hughes Medical Institute in New York, they have located a specific gene, dubbed "ob" (as in obese), which when it malfunctions stops animals producing a weight-reducing hormone called leptin.

And from the Connecticut laboratories of Procter and Gamble has come a "fat substitute" called Olean, which has just been approved for use on the public by the all-powerful Food and Drug Administration.

At Last! Fat-Free Crisps

The big thing about Olean is that, unlike real nutritions fat, it passes in and out of the body without ever being digested. A one-ounce bag of crisp, for example, contains 10 grams of fat and 150 calories if cooked with fat, but zero fat and a mere 70 calories if made with Olean.

"Taste buds are tough critics," says P&G chairman and managing director John Pepper. "And fat-free chips made with Olean get rave reviews from consumers, who've compared them to regular chips fried in Oil. By replacing the fat in snacks, Olean can help millions of people achieve an important dietary goal." Right.

Britain's Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food is still pondering the merits or otherwise of Olean. The idea of eating something you know you're not going to digest does leave and odd taste in the mouth. Bulimia by another name, say some.

Ib balance, I think I'd rather go along with recommendation 7.3 in the *Obesity* report, which states: "Even light activity can provide a valuable addition to energy expenditure, as long as the activity is sustained for substantial parts of the day. Thus, transferring from a sitting to a standing position, to undertake a variety of tasks, does enhance energy output."

Absolutely. In fact, having written this entire article in an upright position, I reckon that due to my own uniquely individual energy balance, I must have used up several thousand calories in the process. Now where's that chocolate?

(Courtesy the Focus)

Entertaining in Style

Lemon Souffle

You will need...

3 lemons, grated rind and juice
3 large eggs, separated
5 oz. castor sugar
3 tablespoons cold water
4 level teaspoons powdered gelatine ($\frac{1}{2}$ oz.)
1/4 pint double cream
For the decoration:
pistachio nuts, chopped (optional)
whipped cream

Preparation time
25 minutes

Cut a piece of greaseproof paper long enough to go round the outside of a 1 1/4 pint souffle dish and about 2 inches deeper than dish. Tie this round outside to form a collar.

Put finely grated lemon rind, juice, egg yolks and sugar in a basin over a pan of hot water. Whisk until just beginning to thicken. Dissolve gelatine with water in a small bowl over a pan of simmering water *(see Quick Tip below)*. When it has dissolved stir into lemon mixture. Leave mixture in a cold place until just beginning to set.

Whisk cream until it forms soft peaks. Fold into mixture. Whisk egg whites stiffly and fold into mixture. Turn souffle into the prepared dish and leave in a cold place to set. Just before serving remove paper carefully. Pipe a little cream round the edge and, if liked, decorate the side with pistachio nuts.

Serves 5-6

QUICK TIP

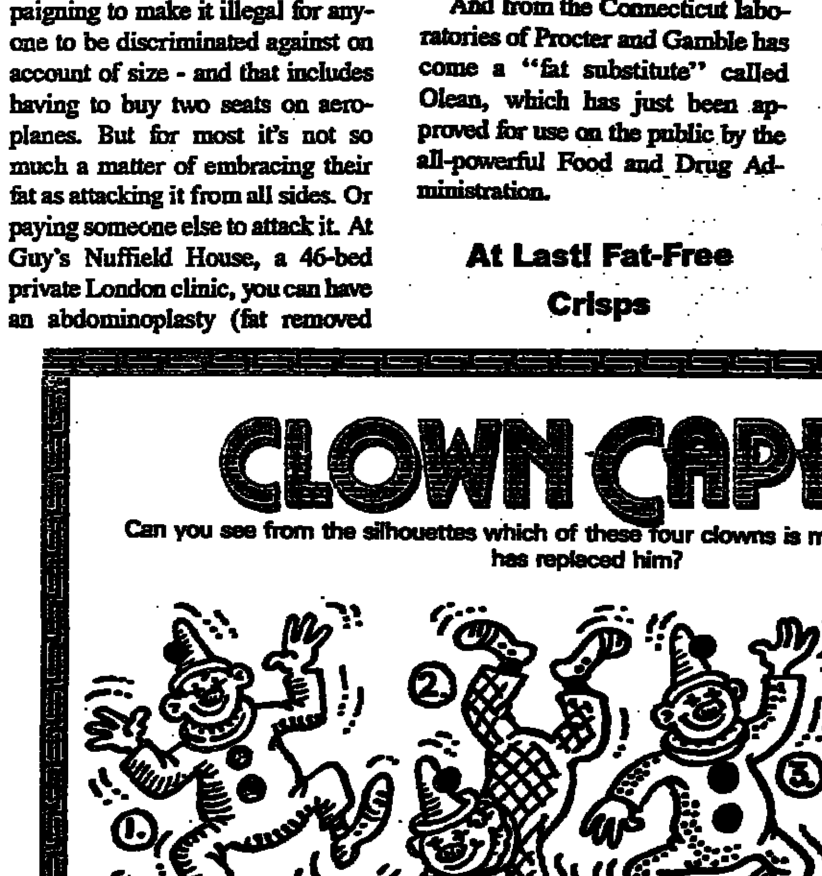
Using gelatine — always soak powdered gelatine in a little cold water for a few minutes to allow the gelatine to swell, before dissolving over a pan of simmering water in a small bowl.

Japan's Junk Food: A Tall Story

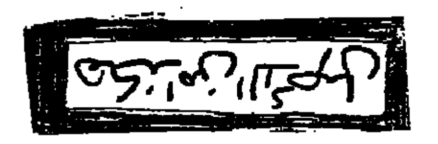
A junk food diet is changing the face of Japan, say scientists. Westernized meals are not only making the Japanese taller, they are also elongating their faces. They require less chewing than traditional brown rice, dried fish and pickles, leading to underdevelopment of bones and muscles in the jaw.

Garlic for Breakfast

Volunteers who took garlic tablets with a traditional British breakfast absorbed less fat than normal. After six weeks, levels of fat in their blood had decreased, while that of "good" HDL-cholesterol increased, which suggests that daily garlic could lower the risk of heart disease.







Engineer Karimi Elaborates on Ilam Province Water and Sewage Company's Activities and Achievements

Engineer Karimi managing director of Ilam Province Water and Sewage Company (IPWSC) recently elaborated on the achievements and agenda of IPWSC. First he called on Ilam citizens not to waste potable water which is a "divine element" in the cycle of human life. This heavenly matter is purified and distributed by the incessant efforts of workers and experts of Water and Sewage Company.

He added: Our prime concern is to help people face no shortage of water. For this we try to increase water output more than ever in order not to have any breakage in water supply.

People should join the endeavor by not irrigating gardens and green areas with potable water. That is because Ilam water distribution system is not a modern and reliable network. Furthermore the network suffers chronic corrosion and pipe breakage, due to its unconformity with international standards. That's the reason why Ilam water network suffers a lot of leakage. As a matter of fact, the amount of water consumed per capita does no go with the number of population. In other words we face an overconsumption of potable water in the province.

Concerning the aforementioned facts, creation of 250 km new water pipelines should receive the utmost attention. To achieve the goal there should be created almost 40 km of new pipelines, whereas due to lack of insufficient investment in the field, the company has laid only 8 km of water pipelines. The more delay in laying the pipelines, the more damage in the irrigation and potable water distribution system, excavation, asphalting and manpower consumption. To avoid the damages the company requires sufficient development budget.

IPWSC's prime concern is to increase potable water output, thus remove water shortage to a great deal.



It is crystal clear that irrigation of green spaces with potable water brings about problems for the company.

Regarding the quality and quantity status of water, Engineer Karimi said in addition to assigning its experts to short-term water laboratory training courses, IPWSC has established a quality control laboratory on a land area of almost 1,000 sq.m with 500 sq.m built area for which it has budgeted 300 million rials for purchasing laboratory apparatus. The project will be operational in near future.

He went on to say: In the laboratory potable waters of different cities are tested to be decided on their permanent and temporary hardness of water, alkaline and acid, chlorine, sodium, magnesium, lead and other mineral elements existing in water. Installation and commissioning of 22 gas chlorination machines promise a high quality potable water for the citizens of the province.

Elsewhere Engineer Karimi said: To access safe potable water and avoid water shortage along with discharging some urban water wells from the water system and handing them over to municipalities to be used for irrigation of green areas, IPWSC in an endeavor studied a plan to increase Gol-Gol Spring waters. The project has been materialized by manufacturing two shockproof 8 cu.m tanks on the first and second installations of Gol-Gol to inject 90 lit. of potable water per second into the provincial pipelines. Accomplishing the new strategy will soar water collection from Gol-Gol Spring from 120 lit. to 300 lit.

At present the installation operations of the tanks are at final stages.

Ilam Province Water and Sewage Company managing director, later, elaborated on the sewage system, saying due to prolonged water shortage and penetration of household sewage which penetrates through the wells into the underground water reservoirs, some of the potable water wells have gone phut.

Water sewage is a dangerous factor for the environment. Following years of research and study by Mahab Ghods Consulting Engineers Company, Ilam water sewage system was reevaluated during the years 1980-1991. As a result of the researches Water and Sewage Company (J.S.) was established to follow the executive operations of the project. Due to the connection of the network to sewage transferring line and water purification system, the city was divided into four districts.

The first executive designs of the first district were completed in Feb. 1994 followed by the second district designs in Jun. 1995. Shortly after the designing of District 3 sewage system was completed in March 1995.

In spite of concluding the agreement in Sept. 1995, the province's geographical status, rainfall and adverse weather conditions, IPWSC could only lay 10 km of sewage system pipelines in the city of Ilam.

The executive operations of the main sewage collector pipeline of Ilam was commenced in 1996 by Mahab Ghods. The line was laid by reinforced concrete pipelines of 1,000 mm diameters with a total length of 4,200 meters from the suburban ring of Ilam. The network will collect the city effluent from all four districts and transfer it to the city sewage purification center. The main sewage collector line can transfer 112,560 cu.m of sanitary effluent every 24 hours(1,300 lit/per sec.). In other words it is capable of transforming the aforementioned amount of waste coming from an estimated 378250 individuals of the year 2016. The city's per capita effluent production is 175 lit. daily with an average flow speed of 6,650 cu.m per day.

The first phase of the project with a length of 2,000 meters will be constructed costing 350 million rials which will be provided by national development budget (reconstruction budget).

It should be noted that IPWSC needs government support to help remove obstacles in the way of excavation and preparing facilities to the contractors during the executive operations of the project.

The managing director added the same project has been launched in the cities of Dehloran and Mehran.

During the past years there has been laid some 4 km of pipes in the above mentioned cities. The executive operations of the second phase in Dehloran to collect city sewage has been started in the current year. It is planned that the collector lines of the project be made of cement sewage pipes with a diameter of 250 and 300 mm, costing 130 million rials. Again the project will be budgeted by the national development budget.

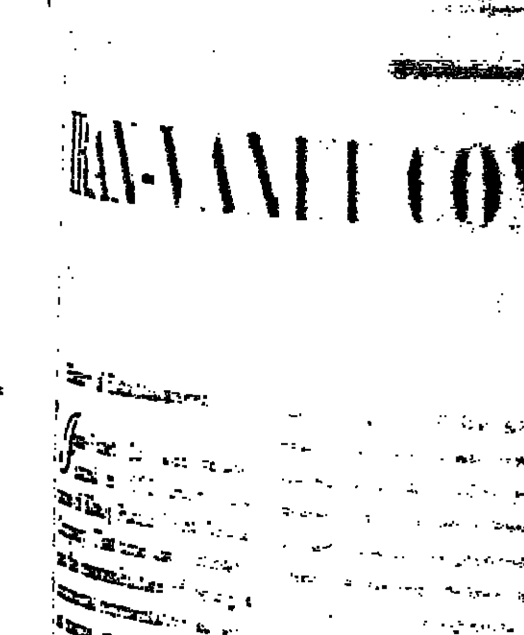
The total length of Dehloran collector lines is predicted to be almost 65 km which will be expanded up to 8,000 km in 1996.

Also in Mehran Khalilian Contractor has laid 2 km of pipelines for the sewage system at a cost of 280 million rials starting from 1995. Mehran sewage system design was planned by Isfahan Water and Sewage System Research Consultant in 1995. The construction operations started last year and the project is predicted to be accomplished in a span of 25 years.

The pipe-laying operations of 8 km of the system with pipes of 300 and 400 mm dia. at a cost of 900 million rials will be accomplished during the current year.

Water is a vital element in the circle of life. Try not to waste this divine matter of the existence.

IPWSC Public Relations Dept.





Production Line of Patrol and Benz Truck Steering Wheel Hydraulic [illegible]

Iran Hydraulic Industries successfully implemented the patterning of hydraulic pumps for the steering wheels of Patrol automobiles and Benz trucks in Mashhad.

Engineer Mohammad Mahdi Shakourzadeh, the managing director of the unit, said that the mass production of hydraulic pumps for the steering wheels of Patrol automobiles will be started in the near future and over 3,000 sets will be manufactured annually.

While he was giving some explanations to the Minister of Industries, Mohammad Reza Ne'matzadeh, he added that the mass production of hydraulic pumps for the steering wheels of Benz trucks will be started in autumn.

To make the pumps for the steering wheels of Patrol automobiles and Benz trucks, we import only 10 percent materials needed and at present they cannot be made in our country, he explained.

Concerning the fact that we utilize 90 percent domestic raw materials and machinery, the manufacturing of these two pumps due to foreign currency will have only a 10-percent value added, Shakourzadeh continued.

The managing director of Iran Hydraulic Industries pointed out that the unit's mass production of brake limit parts of Renault 5 have been recently started and according to the contract signed this year between the unit and Sazeh-Gostar Co., the supplier of Renault and Pars Khodro automobiles parts, the unit will give the above-mentioned company 5,000 sets of brake limit parts of Renault 5 this year.

"Totally, $800,000 have been allocated for the purchase of needed machinery to manufacture hydraulic pumps and brake limit parts", Engineer Shakourzadeh said. "We have saved up one million and five hundred thousand dollars per year through manufacturing these parts", he added.

He briefed the minister of industries that Iran Hydraulic Industries as the sole and first manufacturer of hydraulic pumps in the country, produces 25,000 pumps with a capacity of 18-180 liter per minute and 210 kg/cm^2, all of which are injected to the market.

Concerning the exports of the unit's products, the managing director of Iran Hydraulic Industries told the minister of industries, "At present, some products of this industrial unit's are exported to Pakistan, Kuwait, United Arab Emirates (UAE) to materialize the government's policies for self-sufficiency and independence. It is worth mentioning that they have welcomed the quality as well as the price of our products comparable with similar overseas ones.

Iran Hydraulic Industries began working with a production capacity of 25,000 van pumps in 1992, Shakourzadeh explained, adding the unit enjoying the most advanced machinery and the skilled experts is now manufacturing hydraulic pumps which vastly used in road-construction machinery, plastic-injecting devices, die casters, overweight presses, and other hydraulic systems.



According to the country's needs, the development plan of Iran Hydraulic Industries to manufacture 10.000 steering boxes and complete pumps of steering wheel annually has been carried out in industrial town of Toos, Mashhad and 30 percent of its executive operations has been implemented so far, the managing director told Ne'matzadeh.

The plan due to financial difficulties originated from the contraction policies of the banks is slowly being executed and in case of cooperation between Ministry of Industries and the banks, it is expected to reach the utilization stage in 8 months, he said.

Visiting Iran Hydraulic Industries, the Minister of Industries, Engineer Mohammad Reza Ne'matzadeh, who had traveled to Khorasan Province to inaugurate some industrial and manufacturing units and get familiar with their problems, said, "Every Iranian company helps the country's industrial production reach its optimal stage, make a determined effort to export the industrial goods and finally move toward the country's self-sufficiency, the Ministry of Industries provides them with raw materials and the probable needed machinery which cannot be made in Iran." He encouraged the industrialists to introduce new techniques, to innovate, and to produce high-quality goods. The industrial units' managers particularly the makers of auto parts should try to obtain maximal benefit from the existing facilities as well as the huge capital allocated for the auto industry in order to prevent importing the auto parts, he continued.

"There is no reason to import our needed auto parts while we have skilled manpower enjoying good technical knowledge.

"The government are determined to meet the needs for auto parts in the shortest time through domestic production and in this regard it needs the industrialists' efforts.

"The Ministry of Industries as the custodian of industry, supports it and removes every problem decelerating production," Ne'matzadeh explained.

Regarding the payment of foreign currency differential in 1991 by the industrial units to the Bank Markazi, the minister said, "The industrial are not supposed to pay the aforesaid differential if the bank is the factor of rescheduling and vice versa."

The similar problem was set forth during the recent visits of some manufacturing units which will be solved in Tehran, Ne'matzadeh continued.

Head Office: First Mina St., Sadjad Ave., Mashhad 91878, Iran.
Tel: (0098-51) 716991-719485 Fax: (0098-51) 716991
Telex: 512043 GHAT - IR P.O.Box: 91775-1661
Factory: 15th km Kalat Road, Shahrak Sanati Mashhad,
Mashhad - Iran Tel: (0098-5252) 3421-3359



Iran Ventis Takes Giant Steps Toward the Exploitation of New Sources of Energy

ventis ENERGIETECHNIK

Foreword

Today's world is the place of development and improvement in all dimensions (medical, technical, economic) particularly industry which has been made great progresses in the last two centuries. On the verge of 21st century, man thanks to great industrial progresses has been faced major changes. The recent industrial changes have met the man's needs in the past two centuries.

Now, what is clear to us is that the presented project is one of the most significant ones which can be executed in our country, and improve the deprived areas as well as revolutionize Iran's industry and economy.

Today's man has succeeded to control the energies existing in the environment but unfortunately, there are still some countries which have not become industrial and use ready made energies. As a result, their environment and exiting facilities have been destroying. For instance, they use forest and fossil fuels leading to deforestation and negative impact on their environment. The fossil fuels can be consumed in a much better way in the world but in the under-developed countries or in other words the third-world countries which mainly rely on their mono-product, the people's life just depends on the same product. It is obvious that there is no way for these societies but getting rid of mono-product economy. In the past, our country was unfortunately among them but the post-Revolution basic changes let the country make leading industrial progresses. For this reason, the government has planned basically to support the industrialists working in different fields particularly the industries which save the fossil fuels and do not pollute the environment.

The wind power generators are among such industries. It is clear that these generators can be specially used in the windy areas. The wind in these areas brings some difficulties for the residents while they can be changed into comfort and facility. The generators thanks to their variety can be installed in different areas.

The generators can even be installed in the automobile crossings in order to use the wind energy caused by the cars' move and in this to supply the electricity needed in the highways and expressways. It is worth mentioning that the extra energy can be used for irrigation, etc. In fact, this branch of industry as a new technology has the capability to bring comfort and facility for the people living in the windy areas of Iran and in this way eradicates the deprivation.

Studying Iran's natural geography, we find out that our country has a rough nature. So, the Iranians have always challenged with this harsh nature which both causes destructive floods in some areas and also brings drought for the other areas. Today, we see that the same harsh nature is obtained the maximal benefit through technology and its inhabitants are given various services. We can create wonderful changes in the life residents living in these areas if we succeed to get surface waters and wind energy under control. Bringing the mentioned energy in the under control, we are capable of generating the electricity for these areas through which the underground waters can be applied for flourishing them and finally increasing the national product. In this way, the unemployment is brought under control and the public welfare is improved in these deprived areas such as Sistan-Baluchestan.

Now, what is clear to us is that the presented project is one of the most significant ones which can be executed in our country, and improve the deprived areas as well as revolutionize Iran's industry and economy.

We hereby extend our sincere appreciation to the Ministry of Industries' authorities bringing major changes in the country's industry through their guidance.

Wind power generators are the technological phenomena of the current century which have revolutionized different walks of life in different corners of the globe. They are easily portable to hard-trodden roads and to the spots where due to adverse geographical conditions commuting proves to be hard — as mountainous regions, also far away establishments.

Exploitation of other sources of energy has received prime concern in the research agenda of industrial countries. Today scientists try to find a new source of energy to ban the use of fossil fuels which damage the environment or atomic fuels which bring about problems for the nature. That's why scientists have focused their attention to solar, wind, sea etc. energies.

Exploitation of other sources of energy has received prime concern in the research agenda of industrial countries. Today scientists try to find a new source of energy to ban the use of fossil fuels which damage the environment or atomic fuels which bring about problems for the nature.

Iran's special geographical status enables our scientists to utilize wind energy in the central, eastern and western parts of the country. As an example one could refer to 120-day winds of Sistan and Baluchestan, Manjil Plain, Qazvin Plain, Shahreyar and desert winds. The aforementioned cities and regions enjoy chronic wind during the whole year.

The extent of the cities and areas along with the poverty there, necessitates the use of wind generators in those regions.

Concerning the fact that wind generators are easy to use, besides they need no constant supervision, they can be installed and brought into operation without asking for experts and technicians. So, these generators can be installed in the villages and poor hamlets of the country.

These generators are manufactured in three types: Small (portable), medium and big sizes. The small portable generators could be used in mountainous regions and villages while the medium-sized generators may be used where a group of villages meet to form a cluster. also it can be used in cattle and chicken raising centers. The big-sized generators could be utilized in semi-industrial regions, small factories, agro-industry complexes and macro villages.

The electricity produced may be applied for lighting, water excavation projects, suburban workshops and other suburban projects and installations.

These generators could be utilized in great deals by the Construction Jihad Ministry and other ministries as well as village councils, due to the fact that after the Islamic Revolution most of the attention is given to the eradication of poverty and development of the villages in different corners of the country.

The introduction pictures the need for the utilization of these generators in the Islamic country of Iran. Because they enjoy a technology which could be applied every where easily. As mentioned earlier, these transformers are manufactured in different types of 5 kW, 100 kW and 500 kW.

Type 5 kW is capable of installing in the adverse regional conditions due to its light weight and portability. Type 100 kW is suitable for the cattle and chicken raising centers, irrigation of gardens and fields and electricity supply of the villages. Type 500 kW due to be manufactured in near future, is suitable for giant industrial and production units.

Concerning the generators' ease of usage and the privileges they deserve, establishment of a factory to produce these kinds of generators is a giant step toward the development of the country, in tandem with the economic policies of the government.

History of Establishment

Employing wind energy has been accomplished by the intelligent mankind from the very old times. Taking a glance at the ancient civilizations may give us some proofs of wind energy utilization in different forms and in different corners of the world.

Wind power generators are the technological phenomena of the current century which have revolutionized different walks of life in different corners of the globe.

The easiest ways of using wind energy are in winnow the grains and wind mills. In some countries like the Netherlands, Spain and some corners of Europe, making use of the wind energy is very common.

Not until the Industrial Revolution experts insisted on the use of wind energy. Because, then, as a result of the emergence of the new technology and fossil fuels, combustion engines generated the necessary energy. But humanity became aware of the damage fossil fuels bring about for the environment. Scientists found out that fossil fuels may be utilized in other useful industries which may be both economical and safe.

Nowadays experts confess that combustion engines are not suitable generators of energy. For this, scientists tried to find new and safe sources of energy. Their efforts bore fruit when they offered plans to make use of solar, wind, sea, etc. energies.

At present generating wind energy is prevalent in industrial countries; specially in Europe it is the most common source of energy because it has no danger to the environment.

Solar energy is not economical and common, due to the high cost it requires. But wind energy generators are being expanded in all corners of the world. Iran Ventis and Bad-o-Barg offer the technical know-how for the utilization of the wind energy in Iran.

All the operations are observed and supervised by Bad-o-Barg and Noor-Gostar Jihad companies.



Feature

What Makes Olympic Champions ?

By John E. Anderson

The Olympic flame that top performers pursue burns inside them.

When Kristi Yamaguchi fell to the ice in the 1992 Winter Olympics at Albertville, France, spectators groaned. Surely the 20-year-old's chances for a gold medal in figure skating had evaporated with that tumble. But Kristi scrambled up, flashed a dazzling smile and spun back into her program. When the judges' scores were announced, she had received near-perfect marks despite the spill. Her spirited recovery gave her the gold medal—a tribute to her determination and courage.

As a consultant to U.S. Olympic teams and many individual athletes, I've seen dozens of young men and women like Kristi who reached deep into themselves at a critical moment and found something that brought out their best. They mounted the winners' stand not simply because of athletic talent but because of resolute inner fiber.

Indeed, at a world-class competition like this month's Summer Olympics in Atlanta, Georgia, there's only an infinitesimal difference in athletic ability between No. 1 and No. 2.

Over the years, I've pinpointed several qualities that make Olympic champions. These characteristics are invaluable wherever they are applied—in school, in the home or on the job.

They had a dream. Kristi Yamaguchi visualized herself as an Olympic champion the first time she put on skates, at age six. Bonny Warner, who represented the U.S. in three Olympic luge competitions, didn't have her dream until she was a college student. Before that, she had never heard of the racing sled called a luge. But once the dream took shape, both young women clung to it tenaciously and worked to make it come true.

Most important, their parents and those around them supported the dream. Loretta Dawes, whose 16-year-old daughter, Dominique, was one of the first female black gymnasts to represent the U.S. in the Olympics, recently told the press that bringing up a world-class athlete isn't easy. For an entire year before the 1992 Olympics, she rarely saw her daughter, who lived with her coach to be close to the gym, a 45-minute drive from home. Dawes was asked what advice she would give other parents of athletes. She answered simply and eloquently: "Believe in your child."

That doesn't mean every child who dreams of Olympic fame will one day climb onto the winners' stand. But being able to dream is the first step on every road to success—even if the initial dream eventually leads to a different road. The Rev. Jesse Jackson, for example, once considered a career as a professional baseball player. However, he channeled his ability to dream in other directions.

They're fired up. The Olympic flame that top performers pursue burns inside them. They're driven not only to *be* the best but to *do* their best—always.

That's why Carl Lewis, who already holds eight Olympic gold medals, is again competing at 38 in this year's games, against youngsters half his age; and why discus thrower Al Oerter, after winning gold medals in four consecutive Olympics, tried again for the Olympic team at age 47.

Swimmer Janet Evans, who won three gold medals in Seoul in 1988, embodied that same desire to win four years later. After she narrowly missed a gold medal in the 400-meter freestyle, she swam one of the most psychologically challenging races of her life in the 800-meter freestyle to win the gold. "I just wanted to be up there on that winners' stand one more time," she confessed. The class valedictorian, the corporate CEO—those who rise to the top in any endeavor—must have that same drive.

They bounce back. Television coverage focuses on victories, but the Olympics are also about defeat. In the 1992 men's giant slalom, for instance, there were three medalists—and 130 other skiers who didn't get medals. Athletes know that losing is part of what they do. Real winners in sports, as in business or school, are those whose failures inspire them to go at it again.

Swimmer Mike Barrowman used to wear his second and third-place medeals to bed to make himself think about what he might have done differently to finish first. His method paid off. He won the 200-meter breast-stroke in world-record time in 1992.

They aim high. I once asked a world-class athlete to guess at the outcome of a major competition. "I'll come in fifth," he said. And that's exactly where he finished, even though he could easily have placed third, or even second, since two other major contenders fared poorly. In setting our sights low, we often live up to our expectations.

Contrast him with "Flo-Jo"—Florence Griffith-Joyner. Training a week before the 1988 Games, she wrote in her diary the time she expected to run and win the 100-meter dash: 10.54 seconds. When Flo Jo crossed the finish line, the clock showed 10:54. She had not only seen herself winning, but called her winning time to the split second.

They plan for trouble. In the 1984 Olympics, heavyweight boxer Henry Tillman laid out a careful strategy. He would fight defensively, warding off his opponent's blows while waiting for an opening. But when the bout began, it became obvious that the other fighter had decided to do the same thing. After the first round, Tillman stepped back and dropped his hands; you could almost see him mentally shift gears. Knowing his initial game plan might not work, he had come prepared with a second. He switched to the offensive, and he won the match—and ultimately a gold medal.

Kristi Yamaguchi was ready too. Originally, after the move that made her stumble, she had planned to perform her most difficult jump—three revolutions in the air and a graceful single-skate landing known as a triple salchow. But Kristi was ready with a substitute in case she erred. She cut the triple salchow to a double, enabling her to regain her balance and rhythm and catch up with her music. Then she went on to perform another triple jump, the lutz. Her performance was flawless thereafter.

They never quit. The 1992 Summer Olympics featured two tremendously poignant moments. American sprinter Gail Devers, the clear leader in the 100-meter hurdles, tripped over the last barrier. She agonizingly pulled herself to her knees and crawled the last five meters, finishing fifth—but finishing.

Even more heart-rending was the 400-meter semifinal in which British runner Derek Redmond tore a hamstring and fell to the track. He struggled to his feet and began to hobble, determined to complete the race. His father ran from the stands to help him off the track, but the athlete refused to quit. He leaned on his father, and the two limped to the finish line together, to deafening applause.

Hanging in there despite setbacks teaches us the value of perseverance. An inner dynamo keeps Olympic champions going—not just the promise of a medal, but the satisfaction of completing a difficult task against the odds. That same effort can apply whether the task is a race, a difficult mathematics lesson or a corporate report.

They make their own luck. When Paul Wylie won a silver medal in men's figure skating at Albertville, he surprised everyone but himself. Several skaters who had been expected to win medals had been injured or had performed poorly. "I was the last person expected to make the winners' podium," Wylie said. "But I had trained like crazy and when the favorites faltered, I was ready."

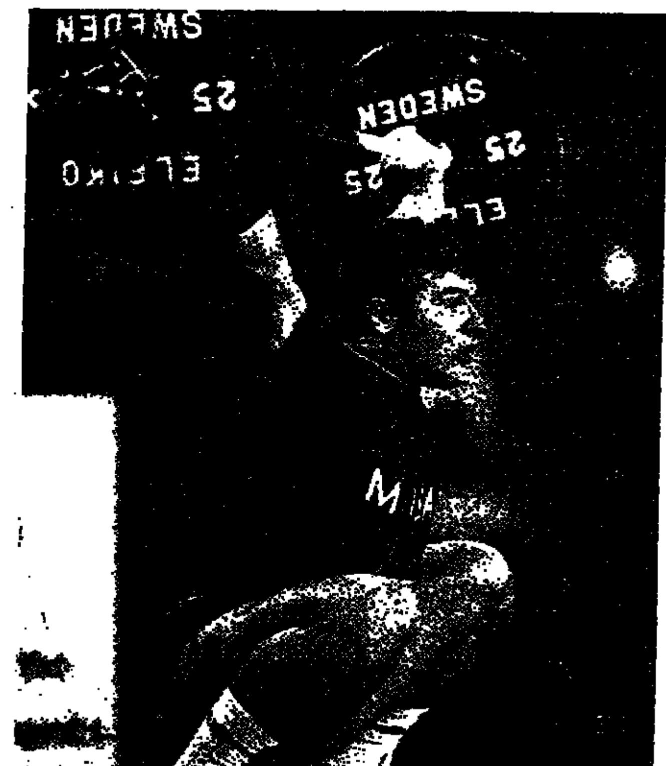
Month after month, year after year, Olympians I know go through a grind of pointing toward their big day.

In the Olympics, as in other aspects of life, luck certainly counts. The assistant clarinetist who has practiced diligently is lucky to get a chance to solo when the first clarinetist becomes ill. So is the assistant sales manager who fills in for the boss in an emergency. But both must be well prepared for their big break. When others slipped, Wylie stepped in and skated perfectly. In the Olympics—in everything—luck strikes those prepared to capitalize on it.

As you watch this year's Summer Olympics, look beyond the skaters' leaps and loops, the skiers slicing around slalom gates, the two-man and four-man bobsleds roaring down the course. In these spectacular maneuvers and superb performances, you can see qualities less easily measurable—qualities we can learn from, qualities for our children to imitate. (Courtesy of *Reader's Digest*, February 1994.)



Carl Lewis (USA), winner of 8 gold medals in the 1994 Winter Olympics.



Weightlifting champion Stefan Botev (Australia)



Travelogue

"You wanna go to sea-shells you say? Is there such a place?" I asked 'S-E-Y-C-H-E-L-L-E-S,' in the Indian Ocean, northeast of the Madagascar."

If you're looking for a total getaway from your hectic city life, Seychelles is the place to go. Comprising over 100 islands which are spread out in 400,000 sq kms of the Indian Ocean, Seychelles is exactly a thousand miles away from the closest civilization, that is the Kenyan coast on the west.

Discovered just over 200 years ago, it gained its independence from the British Crown only in 1976. Lucky enough to come out unscathed from the devastating effects of the last two world wars, Seychelles is not the place to go shopping. But if you're looking for an uncrowded holiday resort which has got pulverized white sand beaches, rich flora and fauna, sunken mountain ranges, pristine waters ideal for snorkelling and scuba diving, Seychelles is one place which guarantees you against any rip off.

The main island of Mahe where over 90 percent of the Creole natives live has 70 beaches of different characters, ranked among the best in the world. Housing the international airport and political and economic center of the whole of Seychelles, Mahe is fully equipped with the modern amenities such as first class hotels and comfortable guesthouses, excellent telecommunication and transportation infrastructure, sports and training facilities especially for yachting and scuba diving, and more importantly, friendly people who speak fluent Creole, French and English. But in order to preserve the national surrounding and landscape, no house or hotel can be built here which is above the height of palm trees.

Victoria capital in the north-eastern part of the 150 sq km mainland boasts of a national museum and library, and historical monuments such as the clock tower and a huge scupture which symbolizes the three continents where the natives originated from. Heavily patronized are the Creole restaurants, craft shops and art galleries. The fruit and vegetable markets sell a wide range of foodstuff.

The best way of discovering the richness and beauty of the ocean without getting oneself wet is to make a trip to St. Anne National Park via a glass-bottomed boat. Being officially designated as one of the first marine reserve parks in the Indian Ocean, you are advised to "Take away nothing but photographs and memories." That means no fishing and collecting of seashells and corals.

But no reason to be disgusted. Close by is Cerf Island where you could freely go for snorkeling and scuba diving. Afterwards, you can enjoy the tasty creole food and curry at the Beach Shed Bar and Restaurant.

From Mahe, you can take a 20-minute domestic flight, via Air Seychelles, to Praslin, the second largest island famous for its coco-de-mer palm trees. If you prefer to go by boat, be prepared for a two-and-a-half hours' ride. Home to the Black Parrot which is one of nature's rarest birds, Praslin is a botanical paradise ideal for exploration by foot. If you intend to discover the island's natural treasures in a shorter time, you can take a cab, a bus or even rent a bicycle at the Flying Dutchman Hotel in Grand'Anse.

For would-be ornithologists, Cousin Island is a perfect place to go bird watching. Another designated nature reserve owned by the International Council for Bird Preservation, Cousin is not the place for swimming, holding picnics, collecting shells and even smoking. Haven for endangered birds such as the Brush Warblers, the island only accommodates a maximum of 25 visitors at a time. If you want to see a quarter of a million birds soaring to the heights, the best time to visit this island is during April or May.

Just one mile northeast of Praslin is Curieuse, a tiny island well wrapped up with lush vegetation and huge takamak trees. Once a leper colony, the island is home to some 250 giant tortoises.

Southwest of Praslin is La Digue which is the fourth largest island in the Seychelles. As there are only half-a-dozen cars allowed to prowl around the island at any one time, bicycles have become the common mode of transport. Watch out for the Paradise Flycatcher bird in La Digue.


Seychelles, the all-year round tropical paradise, is a thousand miles away from civilization.

TODAY IN HISTORY

1947 — United Nations calls for cease-fire in Indonesia, where revolutionaries are fighting the Dutch.

1950 — Belguim's King Leopold III abdicates in favor of Prince Badouin.

1958 — Jordan's King Hussein dissolves Federation of Jordan with Iraq.

1962 — Unsuccessful attempt to assassinate President Kwame Nkrumah in Ghana when bomb is thrown at his car.

1963 — Britain agrees to grant independence to Malta in 1964.

1971 — Defense Department announces pullout of almost 3,000 U.S. troops from Vietnam.

1975 — Leaders of 35 nations at summit meeting in Helsinki, Finland, affirm board charter for peace in Europe.

1989 — Christian Arm Commander General Michel Aoun declare "popular liberation revolt" against Syrian troops in Lebanon.

1990 — Talks between Iraq and Kuwait over oil and border disputes break off and Iraq maintains 100,000 troops massed on its border with Kuwait.

1991 — In Kiev, President Bush warns restive Soviet Republics against "the hopeless course of isolation," and urges them to embrace Mikhail Gorbachev's plan for holding the union together.

1992 — The supreme court permits the Bush administration to continue to return Haitians to Haiti.

1993 — The Clinton administration tells NATO allies that if the European nations don't agree to tougher action on Bosnia, the United States is prepared to act alone.

CANDID CAMERA

Photo: Mojtaba Tahin



TOMORROW IN HISTORY

1939 — Scientist Albert Einstein says in letter to U.S, President Franklin D. Roosevelt that U.S. should start atomic research program.

1954 — Britain rejects request of federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland for status as separate state within British Commonwealth.

1963 — United States tells United Nations it will halt all sales of military equipment to South Africa because of that nation's racial segregation policies.

1971 — United States says it will support seating China in United Nations but will oppose expulsion of Chinese nationalists.

1988 — Soviet military unveils its new top-secret Blackjack bomber to U.S. Defense Secretary Frank Carlucci.

1990 — Iraqi tanks and infantry overrun Kuwait in predawn strike over dispute over oil and frontier-Kuwaiti royal family flee to Saudi Arabia — U.S. President George Bush condemns the attack as "naked aggression."

1991 — President Bush announces talks between Greece and Turkey to be held in the U.S. in September aimed at resolving disagreement over Cyprus.

'My Calling Is to Tell Stories'

The maestro talks about his habits, computers, the drug wars, and Castro

Newsweek's David Schrieberg conducted a running series of chats and conversations with Gabriel Garcia Marquez during a recent weeklong visit to Colombia. Excerpts:

On Movies

My calling is to tell stories, and it's all the same to me whether it's in writing or in pictures. Cinema interests me a lot — I've always loved movies. I was a newspaper film critic when I was very young. And anything that has to do with telling stories fascinates me.

His Routine

I get up at 5 a.m. every day. It doesn't matter what time I went to sleep. I'm careful not to go to sleep too late, but if I sleep four hours I'm all right the next day. I keep all the materials I need on the table next to my bed. I read and do things I have to do, work on papers and such things. I could get up, but at that hour I feel very alone. And to walk around all dressed at that hour makes you feel even lonelier. At 7 a.m. I read the newspapers, but only the headlines. Almost all my friends are journalists, and since I spend almost the whole day before talking to them, I already know what's in the papers anyway. By 8 or 9 in the morning, I'm sitting in front of my computer.



Writing on Computers

Since the first chapter of "Love in the Time of Cholera," I've been writing on a computer. Before then, my average was one book every seven years. Since I switched to a computer, it's been one every three years. And I'm much less physically tired. I destroyed my back sitting in front of a typewriter from 8 a.m. until 2 or 3 in the afternoon.

'News of a Kidnapping'

It was a tremendous amount of work. I never thought it would be so hard. I had always wanted to write a nonfiction book based purely on reporting. I have great nostalgia for reporting as a genre. I had been looking for a subject and couldn't find it — and on top of that, I wanted something simple. Suddenly I met Maruja Pachon and her husband [key protagonists in the book]. I worked every day on this for three years... What I care about with this book is that it shows how everyone suffered, from the hostages to the kidnappers to the authorities; how eveyone experienced it, including their families.

Why He Opted to Write About Drug Trafficking

When Maruja Pachon proposed it to me, I said no. The idea of another book on drug trafficking totally bored me. But then I... started to think about it. I realized that it had to be an X-ray of [Colombia] during that year. And that really got me interested. You see all that in the book, for 700 pages... The point was to tell the story of the country in a new genre. What people are going to be most surprised about is that it seems more like a novel than all my novels.

On the United States and the War on Drugs

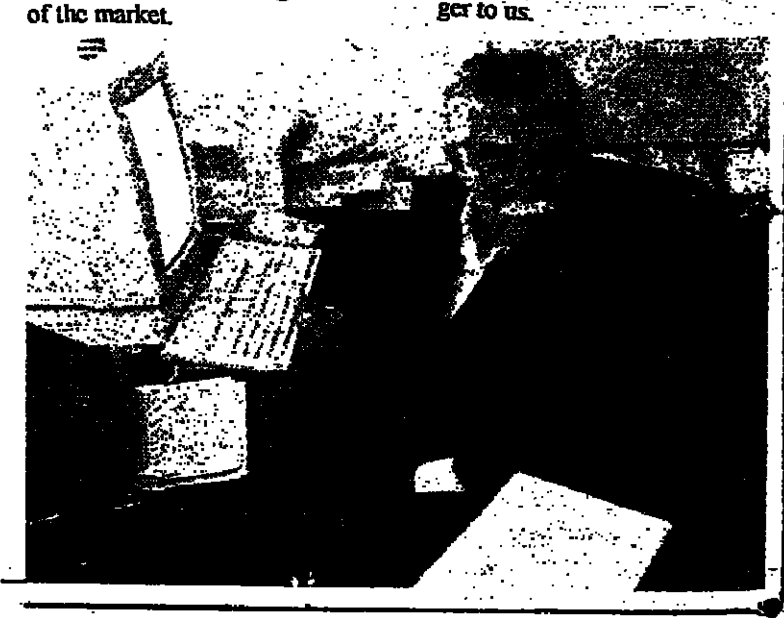
The United States is the biggest consumer of drugs in the world. Production doesn't stimulate consumption — consumption stimulates production. I believe that what the United States is waging is a war of markets. With its enormous quantity consumers... the U.S. mafias are far more powerful than Colombia's and that means the level of official corruption is far greater than in Colombia. But it's as if the Americans were so greedy that it didn't seem fair to them that Colombia keep the rest of the market for itself in cultivation, sales and processing of drugs. This war is about seizing all sectors of the market.

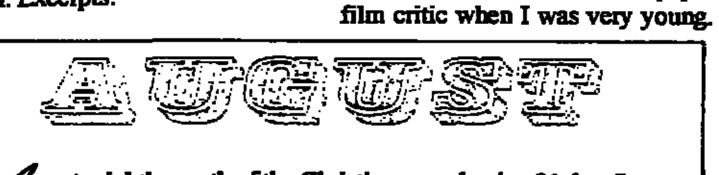
Cuba and Castro

I believe that Cuba's doing very well emerging from its problems, despite the stumble over the [Brothers to the Rescue] planes [shot down by the Cuban Air Force in early March], an unfortunate incident that nobody wanted to happen — surely Fidel less than anyone. I believe that Cuba's going the right way until the United States realizes that the [economic] blockade makes no sense.

On Latin American Democracy

I believe that what's happened until now is a great process of democratic development in Latin America. What's bad about it is the kind of democracy — they are very weak. If you consider the presidents elected and the degree of public participation, it's better than before but I ask myself if this type of democracy isn't too vulnerable and, above all, if the United States continues to pose a very great danger to us.





August, eighth month of the Christian year, having 31 day. It was named for the Roman Emperor Augustus, who enjoyed several personal triumphs during the month. Previously it had been called *Sextilis*, the six the month of the Roman year. To please Augustus the Roman senate took a day from February to make August of equal length with Caesar's month, July.



Peasant threshing is symbol of August. Amiens Cathedral, France.

Washington Inc... Tension by Bully

Assad, Hrawi Meet in Damascus

Muslims Should Fast to Islam...



TASKHIRI

Tehran Times Service